

Augusta Raa Middle School Symphonic (Gold) Band Syllabus

Director of Bands - Mr. Lonnie Bodiford

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Course Description {Prerequisite: 1-year band experience, audition, and/or teacher approval}

This course is specifically designed to provide a year-round continuation for musicians who have successfully completed beginning and concert bands. It presents invaluable opportunities for students to significantly enhance their musicianship and musical experiences through the performance of advanced-level wind and percussion literature ranging from Grades 2 to 3. Throughout the course, students must prioritize the development of a mastery of rhythmic accuracy and musical concepts, as well as an understanding of individual and ensemble playing. Moreover, students are mandated to audition in District events, including Big Bend District 3 Honors Band, Music Performance Assessment (MPA), District Solo & Ensemble MPA, and actively engage in various community performance opportunities.

Course Materials

1. Instrument and accessory items (clean supplies/reeds)
 2. Music book – “*Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician*” (Yellow book)
 3. ½ inch 3-ring with sheet protectors
 4. Pencil/Highlighter
 5. Band Fee \$30 – *This fee covers future band supplies, supplementary music, and most materials that are used in class daily. Please refer to attached letter on band fee.*
 6. Performance Attire – All black dress attire
- *Instruments and music supplies can be purchase or rented through our local music shops, Music Masters, Playground Music, & Beethoven and Company.*

Course Objective:

1. Develop skills in instrumental music related to performing, analyzing, creating, and responding to music.
2. Develop skills in instrumental music to become successful musicians and 21st century citizens.
3. Demonstrate skills in instrumental music that contribute positively to culture and the school community.

Expectations:

In addition to the rules stated in the student handbook, the following rule is paramount in the band program:

“Do not do anything that is detrimental to your success as a person and as a musician in our band program.”

- Be in your assigned seat with your instrument, music, and pencil no later than THREE MINUTES after the bell rings.
- Do not chew gum during class.
- Respect the facilities, equipment, and musical abilities of your peers.
- Take responsibility for your behavior and performance in rehearsal.
- Do not leave personal belongings & food in the band room, lockers, or practice rooms.
- All Raa Band Students are assigned a locker to store their instrument.
- The Leon School District & Raa M.S. Band program does not claim responsibility for items removed from a student locker that does not have a lock on it.
- Raa Band Students are expected to remain in the band room during rehearsal unless directed to a practice room by the director. Students must sign out to use the water fountain.

Behavioral Expectations

During the first week of school, the students will collaborate in creating class behavior expectations. Together we will decide how we will treat one another with a social contract agreement between the students and the teacher.

Classroom Consequences & Discipline

- ❖ First Offense: A verbal warning will be issued, which includes a reminder of the rules, a restatement of the expectations, a reminder of consequences, and a polite request to stop the undesired behavior.
- ❖ Second Offense: Seating may be changed, and students will be counseled after class regarding necessary behavior modification. The event will be recorded in the behavior log and updated with each additional step. Daily participation points will be deducted from the grade. Loss of privileges, including playing the instrument for that day, may also occur.
- ❖ Third Offense: A parent contact (phone or email) will be made, and the student may be asked to pack up their instrument and given an alternative assignment. Daily participation points will be deducted from their grade.
- ❖ Fourth Offense: A student/parent conference will take place, which will include a Raa administrator. The aim will be to create a solution that will prevent the behavior from reoccurring.
- ❖ Fifth Offense: Office referral. Consequences may include lunch detention, ISS (in-school suspension), or OSS (out-of-school suspension).
- ❖ Serious Offense: As outlined in the Raa Middle School Student Code of Conduct, serious offenses warrant an immediate office referral with school consequences.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

Cell phones and other electronics are for appropriate classroom use only. Because students may need to use their electronics for personal/group practice time, they will be told when they are allowed. Students are caught off task during these allowed electronics usage times, students may be asked to put their electronics away resulting in a lowered participation grade.

Music Applications

Two essential applications for band students are Soundcorset (tuner app) and Pulse (metronome app). These educational apps are beneficial for their musical development. There are also other free apps that can be used as alternatives to the ones mentioned above.

Bathroom Use

- Please note that bathroom visits are not permitted during the first and last 10 minutes of class.
- Each student is allotted 2 bathroom passes per week.
- Only one student can leave for the bathroom at a time, and you will have 3-5 minutes for your visit.

Illness and Injury

Your health and well-being are our priority. In case of illness or injury, a doctor's note is required to be excused from playing your instrument in class. Most illnesses or injuries should not hinder your ability to play your instrument if you can maintain proper posture, embouchure, and breathing techniques.

Band Lockers

Band lockers will be assigned during the first week of school. Musicians must bring their own combination lock and provide Mr. Bodiford with the code to secure the locker. **Lockers are designated for band supplies only.** Students are strictly prohibited from storing sports clothing, food/lunch, or any non-musical equipment in the lockers. It is absolutely imperative that the lockers remain clean throughout the academic year.

Events for Next Year:

- Quarter 1 & 3 Fundraisers: World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser (September 2025)
- All State Auditions – **September 2025**
- All-District Auditions – **November 2025 @ Leon H.S.**
- Fall Concert – **November 2025**
- Tallahassee Winter Parade (with Raa Dance Company) – **December 2025**
- Community Performances
- District 3 Solo and Ensemble – **February 2026 @ Montford M.S**
- Tallahassee Springtime Parade (with Raa Dance Company) – **March 2026**
- Concert MPA – **February/March 2026 @ Leon H.S.**
- Spring Concert – **April 2026**
- End of Year Band Trip – **April 2026**, Universal Studios Music Festival, Orlando, FL

****Additional rehearsal dates may be required depending on the scheduled performances.**

Grading System

Grades are carefully computed based on the following criteria:

60% - Assessments (Part Checks/Written Test/Performances)

- ❖ Musicians will be evaluated based on their comprehension of new music concepts and their performance ability.
- ❖ Quizzes on playing will be documented and assessed, with constructive feedback provided to highlight areas for improvement.
- ❖ For concerts, musicians will be graded on the following criteria: attendance, preparedness, concert attire, and performance. **There will be no opportunities for making up a missed performance.**

30% - Class Participation (Class rehearsal/Supplies/Behavior) 9-weeks Participation Grades

- ❖ Musicians are expected to be prepared for daily rehearsal and demonstrate readiness to learn.
- ❖ Supplies (instrument, music, pencil, etc.) must be brought daily to class.
- ❖ Classroom behavior will impact the musicians' participation grade.

10% - Homework (Music Part Checks/Scale Review/Written Assignments)

- ❖ Musicians are expected to complete weekly homework assignments which are in the form of practice checks, rhythmic sheets, and written tasks.
- ❖ "Part Checks" are informal assessments used to gauge musicians' progress on specific musical pieces or techniques. Check will take place every 2 weeks.

Chair Placement

During the initial 3 weeks of school, Mr. Bodiford will be rigorously evaluating students to determine their chair placements. These assessments will encompass students' capacities to recall scales, music exercises, tone quality, rhythm reading, and music terminology. The determined chair placements will dictate the seating and the music part each student will play in their section.

The process of determining first and second chair positions involves a comprehensive assessment of technical skills, tone quality, intonation, and overall musicianship. Proficiency in scales, articulation, and sight-reading abilities forms the cornerstone of this evaluation.

Chair Challenges will provide students with the opportunity to challenge their peers for their seats in a friendly, enjoyable, and safe manner. However, students exhibiting poor sportsmanship will not be permitted to participate in these challenges.

The standards for Chair Challenges will be prominently displayed in the band room for reference.