

Raymond High School Band

2022-2023 Handbook



“Ultimate Soul”

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Join the Raymond Band Remind Group: Text “@c378c” to 81010
Ultimate Soul Band Boosters Remind Group: @bh7fhh4

Raymond High School Band Students and Band Boosters,

Welcome to the award-winning Raymond High School Band family, and congratulations on your decision to be a part of one of the finest organizations in the country. There are few organizations so rich in tradition and success that also include so many real-world experiences for students and boosters alike. The 2022-2023 school year gives us all the opportunity to carry on this outstanding tradition of excellence. The Raymond Band provides a wide variety of musical activities which allow everyone a chance to reach their highest possible level of success.

During the year, students will be able to develop their personal musicianship, time management skills, personal growth planning skills, financial budgeting skills, work ethic, and team cooperation skills while surrounded by other goal-oriented students and adults who share a passion for quality music and artistry.

Within our band program, our students, staff, and boosters strive for excellence together through dedication, education, and experience. This is the cornerstone and legacy of the Raymond Band program. The substantial recognition that the band receives each new year is built upon the tradition of excellence set by our past bands. The 2022-2023 year looks to be an exciting opportunity to build on this legacy. It is also important to note that one important part of the total band experience is the fun and lasting relationships and memories that are developed by both students and parents.

Hard-working students, dedicated staff, actively involved parents, coupled with a supportive administration and community all combine to make it possible for the Raymond Band Program to offer an outstanding array of musical opportunities. Our students are expected to set and reach high goals for themselves and their program, and the rewards of meeting those expectations are immeasurable. Members of the Raymond High School Band have ample opportunities to grow musically, emotionally, mentally, and socially.

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, administrators, staff, and directors as a convenient source of information regarding the operation of the Raymond Band. We have tried to thoroughly cover every facet of the program. Students and parents should read this handbook carefully and must sign and return the Handbook Acknowledgement Form. Upon becoming a member of the Raymond Band, band members will be expected to understand and abide by all rules and regulations set forth in this Handbook.

Mr. Anthony Wilson, Director of Bands

Mr. Robert Strauch, Asst. Director

Mr. Jeremy Hilton, Asst. Director

Ms. Lynnzy Higgins, Asst. Director

Ms. Summer Kees, Auxiliary Team Instructor

2022-2023 RHS Band Schedule

Revised 8/24/2022

Jul 18-20	Band Leadership Team Camp 8:30-5:00	Thurs, Oct 20	A.M.P. Workshop 4:15-6PM
Jul 18-20	Auxiliary Team & Percussion Camp 1:00-5:00	Fri, Oct 21	FB Game RHS vs North Pike (Senior Night)
Jul 21-22	Band Camp 8:30-5:00 (RHS)- FULL BAND	Thurs, Oct 27	Away FB Game Raymond @ McComb
Jul 25-29	Band Camp 8:30-5:00 (RHS)- FULL BAND (Wed, 7/27 will release at 3:30PM for optional trip to see DCI show in Hattiesburg)	Nov 4, 11, 18, 25	Potential Playoff Game Dates
Wed, Aug 10	First Day of School	Nov 12 & 19	Lions Band Auditions (select students)
Thurs, Aug 11	*First After School Rehearsal 4:00-6:00PM	Thurs, Nov 17	A.M.P. Workshop 4:15-6PM
TBA	Meet the Rangers	Sat, Dec 3	Utica Parade/State Hospital/Raymond Square
Fri, Aug 19	FB Game Raymond vs _____	Dec 7-10	State Band Clinic (select students)
Fri, Aug 26	FB Game Raymond vs Terry	Mon, Dec 12	RHS Winter Concert Program
Fri, Sept 2	No football game	Thurs, Dec 15	A.M.P. Workshop 4:15-6PM
Fri, Sept 9	Away FB Game Raymond @ Velma Jackson	Jan 13-14	SWMBDA Clinic Band (select students)
Fri, Sept 16	Away FB Game Raymond @ Yazoo County	Thurs, Jan 19	A.M.P. Workshop 4:15-6PM
Fri, Sept 23	Away FB Game Raymond @ North Forrest	Sat, Jan 21	Raymond Solo & Ensemble Festival
Fri, Sept 30	Away FB Game Raymond @ Wingfield	Sat, Jan 28	PAS Day of Percussion (percussionists)
Sat, Oct 1	Copiah Academy Marching Festival	Feb 3-4	ECMBDA Clinic Band (select students)
Thurs, Oct 6	Homecoming Parade	Thurs, Feb 16	A.M.P. Workshop 4:15-6PM
Fri, Oct 7	FB Game Raymond vs Lanier (Homecoming)	Thurs, Mar 2	Pre-State Evaluation Concert
Sat, Oct 8	State Marching Band Evaluation, Pearl HS	Mar 6-10	State Concert Band Evaluation- Pearl
Tues, Oct 11	No after school rehearsal (student holiday)	Apr 20-22	Tentative Music Dept Spring Trip (opt)
Fri, Oct 14	FB Game RHS vs South Pike (MS Band Night)	Thurs, Apr 27	HCS D-West Band Concert
Mon, Oct 17	Monday Music Listening Club begins (optional)	Sat, May 6	Edwards May Day Parade & Raymond Country Fair
		Fri, May 12	Band Banquet

*Band attendance at all performances is **mandatory**, and all performances are graded.

In addition, the band has **mandatory** rehearsals every Tuesday and Thursday beginning August 11th through October 6th from 4:00-6:00PM. Please do not schedule doctor/dentist appointments during these times. Absences will result in grade penalties as well as demerits. We will not have after-school practice on Oct 12th (student holiday) or Oct 14th (take a break!).

Beginning October 17th, we will have optional Monday Music Listening Club activities from 4-5:30PM every Monday.

Beginning October 20th, we will have special "A.M.P." workshops (Advanced Musicianship Program) on the 3rd Thursday of each month through February: 10/20, 11/17, 12/15, 1/19, & 2/16. These workshops will run from 4:15-6PM. Attendance at A.M.P. workshops is required.

We are also planning several social activities and field trips to see area concerts. Attendance at those events is optional but heavily encouraged.

This schedule is subject to change. Please realize that other events and opportunities may arise throughout the year in which the band will be asked to participate. You will be notified of these events by notes sent home with students and through our Remind messages. Please make sure you are signed up for our Remind group. You can join the group by texting @c378c to the number 81010 or entering @c378c as the join code if you already have the app.

In the event of a potential schedule conflict, please contact Mr. Wilson at (601) 460-0176 or anwilson@hinds.k12.ms.us **before** the event to work out the conflict.

MEDICAL FORMS:

Hinds County School District now requires all band students to fully complete their medical information (including a physical exam) online at www.dragonflymax.com. Physical exams are good for one year, and physicals and insurance cards must be uploaded into each student’s Dragonfly account. In addition, please send a paper copy for our travel records.

BAND FEES:

The Raymond High School Band is provided financial support from the school district in the form of band staff, facilities, and some of the large equipment needed to manage a band program. However, it takes much more than this to fund the complete band program for a whole year. To compensate, we do charge band fees as detailed below:

Raymond High School Band Fees 2022-23

Winds	
Band Shirts	\$ 20.00
Folder	\$ 11.00
Book	\$ 10.00
Sheet Music/Copyright	\$ 10.00
Repair	\$ 15.00
Uniform Cleaning	\$ 12.00
Buses	\$ 15.00
Evaluation Fees	\$ 12.00
Drill Design	\$ 20.00
Banquet	\$ 10.00
Awards	\$ 5.00
Total Fee:	\$ 140.00

Percussion	
Band Shirts	\$ 20.00
Folder	\$ 11.00
Book	\$ 10.00
Sheet Music	\$ 10.00
Mallets/Heads	\$ 15.00
Uniform Cleaning	\$ 12.00
Buses	\$ 15.00
Evaluation Fees	\$ 12.00
Drill Design	\$ 20.00
Banquet	\$ 10.00
Awards	\$ 5.00
Total Fee:	\$ 140.00

Color Guard	
Band Shirts	\$ 20.00
Folder	\$ 11.00
Book	\$ 10.00
Sheet Music	\$ 10.00
Flags/Poles/Etc.	\$ 22.00
Costume	\$ 110.00
Buses	\$ 15.00
Evaluation Fees	\$ 12.00
Drill Design	\$ 25.00
Banquet	\$ 10.00
Awards	\$ 5.00
Total Fee:	\$ 250.00

\$40 deposit due by July 27, 2022 (\$100 deposit for Color Guard)

Families with 2 or more students in band will receive a discount of \$10 on each sibling’s fee. Make checks payable to: ***Ultimate Soul Band Boosters***. Several fundraising opportunities will be available for students desiring help raising money for band fees and trips. Please communicate with Mr. Wilson if you need to set up a payment plan.

Students are expected to purchase their own mouthpieces, reeds, slide oil, valve oil, etc. Band members are expected to develop a personal practice routine which should involve at least 5 hours of structured practice each week.

Please keep in mind that school district funds are very limited. It takes a lot of help from our band boosters for us to provide all of the band experiences that we do.

ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

To be a member of the Raymond High School "Ultimate Soul" Band, the student must be enrolled in the band class period for the entire year (the director may allow exceptions for certain scheduling conflicts). He/she must have maintained least a 2.00 GPA the previous semester (70's or above in all classes), or must have made credits up through summer school and be certified as "eligible" by district officials. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations set forth within the school and band program. He/she understands that attendance at summer band camp is required (limited exceptions through prior director approval). Each member must attend all rehearsals and performances throughout the year (concerts, contests, parades, and football games). The directors must approve all exceptions in advance.

Marching Band

Summer band camp runs the last two weeks of July (see attached schedule). Once school starts, after school rehearsals are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00-5:30PM during marching season.

We do NOT cancel rehearsals for rain, we simply stay indoors (the directors may cancel rehearsal if the weather presents dangerous transportation conditions). The band will perform at all varsity football games unless otherwise noted. Band members will be expected to report to the Bandhall at the designated time to allow for warmup and rehearsal, changing into band uniforms, and travel time. The time to report each game day will be announced early in the week to allow students and parents to plan accordingly. Band members are responsible for insuring they arrive to the game with all pieces of their uniform and equipment. Students will sit and perform with the band during the entire game, including the half-time performance. Students will be given a break during the third quarter to visit the concession stand. Band members are advised to watch the scoreboard clock during your third quarter break. Band members who are not back at their designated seat in the stands by the end of the third quarter will be issued demerits, and may lose all or part of their third quarter break the next week. Third quarter break is a privilege that can be revoked, based on inappropriate behavior, excessive tardiness, missed rehearsals, etc. Food and drinks (other than water) are not allowed in the bandstands except for designated times such as the third quarter. Band uniforms will be worn properly at all times during the game. Students will be released to go home after all pieces of their uniform are checked in, instruments and equipment are properly stored, and they are dismissed by a band director.

The rehearsal schedule is normally set well in advance, allowing students to plan other activities and obligations around the established schedule. Punctuality is a trait that will serve you well in your future endeavors. Plan to arrive well in advance of the beginning of rehearsal -- do not try to sneak in at the last second. It is essential that we make efficient use of the rehearsal time we have. This can only happen when every band member is present and working to improve. The band member that misses rehearsal cannot improve, and the other band members around them have a less effective rehearsal due to the absence. We all depend on each other to "carry our fair share of the load" in order for us to achieve the level of proficiency for which the Raymond Band has become noted.

Absences

Directors should be notified **IN ADVANCE** if a student is going to be absent from a rehearsal or performance. Absences from band rehearsals or performances are unexcused unless due to (a) personal illness, (b) death in the family, (c) a legitimate emergency, or (d) special permission from the directors obtained **in advance** by the parent or guardian. Please schedule doctor and dental appointments sometime other than during rehearsal times. Students with jobs are expected to communicate the band schedule with their employer. Missing a band rehearsal or performance for a job shift is an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences will result in the loss of credit for the assigned participation grade and/or disciplinary action to be determined by the director (including demerits).

Band Camp Do-s and Don'ts

1. Be on time. "To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is to be left."
2. "Be in the right place at the right time with the right equipment and the right attitude."
3. Bring a large water bottle.
4. Do not leave campus during camp (not even during breaks).
5. Trash belongs in the trash cans, not on the floor or the ground. "Leave it cleaner than you found it."
6. Absolutely **NO GUM, FOOD, or CANDY** during any rehearsal.
7. No tobacco products are allowed on campus.
8. School dress code applies to all band rehearsals and activities. Wear proper clothing- shorts, etc. Avoid any type of vice ads on clothing when you are representing the Raymond Band.
9. Wear good comfortable gym shoes with socks. No sandals, bare feet, etc.
10. Wear a light colored (preferably white) lightweight breathable shirt. A loose knit long sleeved shirt will offer better protection from the sun.
11. Wear a hat while outside (wide brimmed is best).
12. Wear sunglasses while outside.
13. Use sunscreen (don't forget to re-apply).
14. You must have a Vis-à-vis wet-erase marker (black or blue work best), pencil, reeds, oil, swab, and any other equipment needed for your instrument daily. We will issue you a band folder, and it must be returned at the end of the season or you will have to pay for it. Keep up with it.
15. Always conduct yourselves as ladies and gentlemen. You are an ambassador of our band, school, and community all the time.
16. Make sure your name is on all of your equipment.
17. Make this the best and most exciting Raymond Marching Band ever!

Concert Band

Like marching band, the concert band demands a lot of time, effort, and teamwork. The concert band does not have regularly scheduled evening rehearsals each week, but we may occasionally schedule practices outside of the regular school day as needed. Notification for these rehearsals is given to students and parents well in advance, and attendance is expected. Personal practice plays a huge role in our band's success. The concert selections required for a 4A band evaluation require a substantial knowledge of musical terms and styles as well as highly quality instrumental tone and playing techniques. This can only be achieved through intentional practice and repetition. Each band member should commit to at least 5 hours per week of intentional personal practice to develop their musicianship to the level necessary for our band's success. We encourage students to take private lessons if possible, and we would be glad to help you find a private lesson teacher. Our band is only as good as our weakest player, so our weakest player must be GREAT!

Small Ensemble Class

We offer a Small Ensemble class period separate from the main band class period. We encourage all students to sign up for this class if their schedule allows. In this class, students can join our jazz band and/or ensembles such as brass quintets, woodwind quintets, percussion ensemble, etc. They will work on a very diverse repertoire of music and have opportunities for community performances throughout the year. This class gives our musicians insight into aspects of style, music theory, and music history beyond what is typically covered in concert band.

AP Music Theory

We now offer the Advanced Placement Music Theory course. This is a very advanced course which offers an extra grade point and potential college credit. We encourage academically oriented juniors and seniors to consider taking this class.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT TRIP

Each year the RHS Music Department (Band and Choir) plans a trip for the students. We do anticipate being able to have a music department trip during the 2022-2023 school year, but it will be dependent on Covid-19 restrictions. Since these trips usually involve a performance experience, all students are heavily encouraged to go on the trip. Plan ahead in order to make all scheduled payments on time. No student will be allowed to travel on this trip who has excessive discipline referrals and/or three or more failing classes the preceding grading period. These two things will be discussed in more detail, in writing, later in the year. Parents- We always need parent chaperones, and we would love for you to go with us.

The Ultimate Soul Band Boosters will have several fundraising activities that can help students pay for band fees and trip payments. Monies raised during fundraisers must remain in the booster account if a student cannot go on the trip or the trip is cancelled. Parents are encouraged to join and attend the booster club meetings.

STAFF AND CHAPERONES

Each member of the Raymond High School Band staff has been selected for the skills, talents, and qualities they bring to our band program, and they should be considered an extension of the head director. They should be treated with the highest level of courtesy and respect by all band members and parents.

Chaperones are also extensions of the authority of the directors. Without the dedication of our chaperones and other adults who assist the band, we could not travel or perform in the way we do. These people work hard, and the only payment they receive is our appreciation. Be respectful, polite, cooperative, and remember that the words "Please" and "Thank You" cost nothing but mean a lot to the recipient.

If you disagree with something a chaperone asks you to do, you are not to argue with the chaperone. Students should follow instructions from chaperones the same as they would for a band director or principal. This policy will be strictly enforced. If a chaperone has to report a student for being uncooperative or behavioral reasons, that student is subject to removal from the group. In the extremely unlikely event that a chaperone's instruction violates legal or moral standards, the student should bring it to the attention of a band director immediately.

MERIT/DEMERIT SYSTEM:

Each student starts with 10 merits at the beginning of the summer band camp. It will be your responsibility to maintain these merits. Directors, staff, drum majors, and section leaders can report merits and demerits by filling out a form for each incident and turning it in to the director. The director then finally reviews and issues demerits or merits. The director will keep those forms on file. A list of all merit/demerit transactions will be posted in the bandhall and updated regularly.

Here is the breakdown of merit status:

- 10-20 merits--- Good job, keep it up!
- 20 or more merits--- MERIT AWARD (earn and maintain 20 or more merits by April 30)
- 5 merits---- Parent contact with explanation of demerits
- 2 merits---- Parent contact explaining your suspension from the performing band until merits are raised
- 2 merits for more than one week---- Parent conference regarding potential permanent removal from the performing band
- 0 merits--- -Parent contact explaining your permanent removal from the performing band for the semester or year

Raymond Band Merit System



Demerits:

- Chewing gum during rehearsal/performance... 3 demerits
- Eating during rehearsal/sectional... 3 demerits
- Unauthorized electronic device use during rehearsal... 3 demerits (may result in device being turned in to the school office)
- Late for rehearsal/sectional... 2 demerits
- Late for performance... 3 demerits
- Unexcused after school rehearsal absence... 5 demerits
- Improper equipment or dress for rehearsal... 2 demerits
- Improper handling/storage of equipment/uniform... 2 demerits
- Late after 3rd quarter game break... 2 demerits
- Improper behavior on a band bus... 2 demerits minimum (dependent on severity of behavior)
- Improper behavior during rehearsal... 2 demerits minimum (dependent on severity of behavior)
- Improper behavior at a performance or while on a band/music department trip... 3 demerits minimum (dependent on severity)
- Improper equipment or dress for performance... 4 demerits
- Unexcused performance absence... 8 demerits
- Insubordination... 3 demerits
- Office Referral (in any class)... 10 demerits
- The directors may assign demerits for other infractions based on the severity of the infraction.

Merits:

- "Trash Patrol" after rehearsal or event... 1 merit
- Sweep/Vacuum the Band Hall... 1 merit
- Tighten all music stands... 2 merits
- Community service... 1 merit per hour worked (church, community group, or non-profit organization)
- 10 minute video report of a music composer or artist with at least 2 audio samples of their music... 4 merits
- 10 minute video report of the history of an instrument including influential inventors and artists... 4 merits
- 10 minute video report on a professional musician organization or association including member dues and benefits... 4 merits
- 6 months of private lessons on your instrument... 20 merits
- Being tutored by another band student... 1/2 merit per 30 minute block
- Tutoring another band student... 1 merit per 30 minute block
- Attend a college or community concert... 3 merits (must show a ticket stub or concert program)
- Join a national or international music organization... 6m, Attend the convention... 15 merits
- Audition for a Clinic Band, Solo, Ensemble, College, etc... 2 merits
- Place in a clinic band... 2 merits Place in a State Clinic Band... 4 merits
- Perform a concert or recital outside of our band program... 5 merits
- Earn a Division 1 rating on a solo or ensemble or place 1st chair in a clinic band... 2 merits
- Place in the Lions Band... 75 merits
- Place in a DCI corps... 200 merits
- Serve on a Work Crew (Solo & Ensemble Fest, Concert Production Crew, etc.)... 5 merits/event
- Compose a song... 5-50 merits depending on level of involvement
- Membership in Tri-M... 15 merits/semester
- Monday Music Listening Club... 2 merits/session
- Parent Help: Concession Stand... 5 merits/shift
- Field Trip Chaperone... 5 merits
- Spring Trip Chaperone... 25 merits

When a student receives demerits, they should immediately make arrangements to earn some merits in order to recover. **Any band students who wish to stay late and work on regaining merits must get permission from a director and arrange their own transportation home.**

Band members must have a minimum of 3 merits by the end of the day before a performance to be eligible for that performance. Staying at 2 or fewer merits for more than one week will induce a parent-teacher conference. Loyal band students will not cause the band to have to perform without them.

PEP RALLIES:

Everyone will wear the announced band T-shirt and blue jeans for the pep rallies, unless otherwise instructed. They must be worn tucked in, and no sweatshirts or jackets may be worn over them during the pep rally. Do not play your instrument before the band warms up together or after the band has finished its last song. The band members sit together in the assigned area.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:

All Students are to be inside the band room before the tardy bell sounds. At three minutes after the bell, all students are expected to be in their seat or assigned spot on the practice field with all necessary materials. They should be ready to learn and attentive when the conductor takes the podium.

The warm-up exercises are a very important part of each rehearsal and each musician's development. This is when we focus on the fundamentals of our playing so that we may improve as a group and as individuals.

Reed players should always have at least three working reeds. Your reeds will last longer and you will get better play from them if you alternate reeds on different days.

Cases should be left in the designated area during rehearsal. For safety reasons, avoid blocking the walkways. At the end of rehearsal, make sure you put all of your equipment away. Instruments should be put in the designated area if not being taken home for practice.

Percussion equipment is to be stored properly at the conclusion of rehearsals. Timpani and mallet instruments for which there are covers should be covered. Small equipment, including cymbals and concert snare drum, should be put in cases or returned to the appropriate storage area. This will help protect the equipment. Percussionists are expected to purchase sticks, mallets, and method books according to the supplied guide.

Problems of an individual nature (missing music, problems with instruments, etc.) should not take class time. These issues are best dealt with either before or after rehearsal.

With so many people in the room, talking during rehearsals must be kept to a minimum. Talking should always be about music we are studying and should never be a distraction to the conductor or other students.

DO NOT leave your money, purses, wallets, or other valuables unattended during rehearsals or during the school day. The school and band directors are not responsible for valuables left in unsecured areas.

GRADING PROCEDURES:

Band uses a wide variety of assignments including the categories listed below.

- Participation grades will be given for every band rehearsal and every performance counts as a test grade. Attendance to all band practices and performances will be included in this category. To receive full credit on participation grades band members must be present, must arrive on time, have all required equipment, and must fully participate.
- Instrument/Equipment checks will be made regularly. Each student is responsible for keeping up with the items and must be able to present them for inspection at any time throughout the year.
- Music theory is a vital part of musicianship. A musician must be able to understand music notation and construction in order to accurately perform the music in the way the composer intended. We will have music theory lessons, assignments, and assessments throughout the year.
- Daily assignments include listening exercises, tuning exercises, marching coordinate lessons, performance reflections, research projects, etc.
- Each band member is expected to develop a personal practice routine. Although personal practice time may fluctuate during the different performance seasons, 5 hours (300 minutes) per week is a ballpark goal for most students. The band is only as good as the weakest player, so the weakest player has to be great!
- Playing tests are assigned as the midterm exam and end of term exam for each nine-week grading period. In addition to counting as the exam grade, these playing tests will determine “chair” order within the band. Opportunities to retest for a higher grade are allowed for up to five school days after the original test, but retests will not change the chair order. Students will be required to submit a recording for these exams, and the directors will provide feedback electronically. Like in all other subject areas, students who fall behind or fail to meet the minimum requirement of the band will be expected to attend tutorials.

Excused and Non-Excused Absences

Because band is a co-curricular activity, band members are required to attend practices and performances which occur outside the normal school class times in fulfillment of state and national standards.

Directors should be notified IN ADVANCE if a student is going to be absent from a rehearsal or performance. Absences from band rehearsals or performances are unexcused unless due to (a) personal illness, (b) death in the family, (c) a legitimate emergency, or (d) special permission from the directors obtained in advance by the parent or guardian. Please schedule doctor and dental appointments sometime other than during rehearsal times. Students with jobs are expected to communicate the band schedule with their employer. Missing a band rehearsal or performance for a job shift is an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences will result in the loss of credit for the assigned participation grade and/or disciplinary action to be determined by the director (including demerits). **It is impossible for a student to “make up” a missed rehearsal, and it is unfair to make the whole band have to repeat instruction for someone who missed.**

Because of the unique nature of performance situations, **it is not feasible to allow students to make up grades for missed performances.** Students should make every effort to be at every performance. The band can't play if the band isn't there.

BAND BOOSTERS:

Parents are an important part of the Raymond Band, and they have a vital role in the success of our program. Without the assistance and cooperation of the band parents, there would be no chance for the level of success we desire for the band to reach. There are many things parents can do:

- Attend Band Booster Meetings.
- Volunteer for parent committees. There are many different tasks with which we need your assistance, and everyone can find the niche that suits them best. Chaperones, concessions crew, uniforms alterations, equipment handling, sewing, meals, and banquets are just a few of the areas in which we can always use help.
- Here are some ways parents can be supportive of their band member and our band program:
 - Assist your child in being prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance.
 - Notify the directors if your child is to be absent or late for performance or rehearsal. This should be done in advance unless in absolute emergency.
 - Encourage your child to practice at home and help them find a quiet place to do so.
 - Show your interest and support in your child's music study by enthusiastically attending band performances.
 - Communicate openly with the director staff.
 - Consider setting up private lessons for your child if at all possible. Private lessons offer many great benefits for young musicians, and they are worth every penny.
- Parents/guardian are responsible for paying for any unsold fundraising goods not turned in by the deadline.
- The booster club accepts cash, checks, or money orders (made out to *Ultimate Soul Band Boosters*). Checks are accepted until there is a problem. If a problem arises, we need a parent to come in and replace the check with cash. The check writer will be responsible for any returned check fees charged by the bank. The boosters also accept CashApp:



- No credit will be given on fund raisers until money is turned in by the student and/or parent or paid by the vendor to the Band Boosters. No credit will be given for fund raisers if money and/or unsold goods are not turned in within two weeks of the deadline. Returned checks do not count as payment. Expected, projected, or hoped-for credits do not count whatsoever and are not an excuse or justification for delinquency.

GENERAL RAYMOND HIGH SCHOOL BAND CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

1. **Be On Time-** Students must be in the room when the tardy bell rings. They will have three additional minutes to get out their instrument and music folder and be in their seat.
2. **Be Prepared-** Students must have their instrument, folder, book, music, mouthpiece, reeds, sticks/mallets, and wet-erase marker every day. Students will also wear the designated band uniform on performance days.
3. **Be Safe-** Students will walk carefully in the Band Hall to keep the instruments and each other safe. They will only handle their own instrument to avoid damaging other students' equipment.
4. **Be Respectful-** Band students will treat each other and all adults (teachers, parent volunteers, and guests) respectfully at all times.
5. **Be Your Best-** *Ultimate Soul* Band members are expected to be the best students at Raymond High School in every aspect.
6. **Be The BAND!!!-** You are the Raymond High School *Ultimate Soul* Band! Show it!!!!

BUS RULES AND PROCEDURES:

1. Stay on your assigned bus. Students are not allowed to switch buses during a trip.
2. On school buses, keep the noise to a minimum. No loud screaming, radios, etc.
3. DO NOT play your instrument on the bus.
4. DO NOT throw anything out of the windows. Keep arms, head, etc., inside the windows.
5. Answer roll call for yourself only. Keep the noise level down during roll call.
6. Remember, this is a band function-- not a dating service. No PDA on band time.
7. Put trash in the garbage bags. On short trips take trash off the bus when you leave. Always leave the bus cleaner than you found it.
8. We do not allow sunflower seeds on the bus.
9. ALL STUDENTS MUST TRAVEL TO ALL EVENTS WITH THE BAND!!
10. All students must return from all events with the band. ***Exception:** Students may, with **director's approval and prior parental written notification**, leave from the event with their parents. The parent shall get a note signed by the principal for the student to leave with anyone other than the parent/guardian. Students will not be released to anyone other than their guardian without a principal's signature.
11. An itinerary will be published stating an estimated pickup time for games and trips. A Remind message will be sent out if we are running excessively late. Please have your rides here at school.
12. Remember – No tobacco products are allowed on campus or on the buses.
13. Be courteous, do what chaperones ask, and thank the drivers and chaperones when we return.
14. Do not use the emergency exit doors unless an emergency arises. They are not to be used for boarding and deboarding the bus.
15. Do not ask a chaperone to carry your purse.
16. Do not take the large portable radios on any trip. If you want to listen to music, you must use headphones. There are many reasons for this-- courtesy for others.
17. Get your equipment off the truck/bus when we return to the school. YOU must put your instrument and equipment back in the bandroom. If you ride home with your parents, make sure you have arranged for someone take care of your equipment.
18. REMEMBER-- YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING YOUR EQUIPMENT TO AND FROM THE LOAD-UP TRUCK/BUS.
19. ALL SCHOOL RULES AND THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT WILL BE ENFORCED AT ALL TIMES OF TRAVEL, WHETHER OR NOT THE BAND IS ON "SCHOOL GROUNDS".

STANDS PROCEDURES:

1. No food or drinks in the stands except for designated meal times (water is an exception).
2. Do not wear ball caps in the stands or with your uniforms. In cold weather, stocking caps, ear muffs, etc. are permissible.
3. There is to be no random playing of instruments at any time. Any section or solo cheers should be cleared with the directors prior to the game.
4. At all games, sit in your assigned section the entire game.
5. Outsiders are **not** allowed in the band sections.
6. Your concession break will be during the third quarter. You must be back in the stands in time to play at the end of the third quarter. Don't be late; watch the clock carefully. You will be issued demerits and may lose your break the next week if you are late.
7. **NO SCREAMING!!!!!!** Cheer for the team (demonstrate good sportsmanship).
8. Remember- **NO** tobacco products.

ATTITUDE

Students who have a positive attitude, regardless of their individual skill level, will always have a place in the Raymond Band. Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is not positive and you are not doing your personal best to make the group successful, you should not be a part of this organization. We can help you develop musical knowledge and skills, but your attitude has to be right from the start.

Characteristics of a positive attitude include a generally cheerful outlook toward rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do what is necessary to be successful. In short, the total band member is someone who is always willing to give his or her best for the good of the organization.

INSTRUMENT CARE

School-owned instruments and equipment become the responsibility of the student to whom they are issued. Any damage other than normal wear and tear will be repaired at the student's expense.

Personal instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. Always store reeds in the reed cases (not on the mouthpiece), and swab woodwind instruments daily. Avoid playing right after eating or drinking sugary drinks, and do not leave instruments in vehicles. Always show a director your instrument before taking it in for repairs. Sometimes the fix doesn't require a trip to the shop. Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment. Be careful with your own instrument. Place it out of harm's way if it is necessary for you to put it down, and never handle or play anyone else's instrument.

If your instrument is in need of repair, we recommend these repair shops:

- Dazz Music (601) 842-7874
- Mississippi Music, Inc (601) 922-1200

BAND UNIFORM GUIDELINES

1. Band shoes will be ordered at Band Camp. Cost is approximately \$32.00. We only use these shoes:
 - a. Winds/Brass/Percussion- StylePlus Impact Marching Band Shoe Item # 102800
 - b. Auxiliary Team (Colorguard)- StylePlus Releve Guard Shoe Item # 118525
2. White gloves: Purchased at the bandroom for \$5.00 per pair when uniform is issued. Each band member except Percussion and the Auxiliary Team is required to have at least one pair of gloves. It is recommended to have an extra pair for backup. Clarinets and other instruments with open keys will have to cut the ends off of the glove fingers.
3. Band T-shirts: The designated band t-shirt must be worn at each event. T-shirts cost is embedded in the band fee. We also encourage parents and other family members to purchase these shirts to show your support of the band.
4. Section leaders will check with each person in their section to make sure each has his or her instrument and all parts of his/her uniform before performances (TALL BLACK SOCKS!!!).
5. Make sure your shoes, instrument case, and all belongings have your name on them.
6. You should remain in full uniform (minus hat) at all times at performances, unless otherwise directed.
7. After you are dismissed following any performance, you are to take off your uniform and hang it properly on your chair according to director's instructions. Hats are to be placed in the proper hatbox and left open under your seat. Gloves, T-shirts, shoes, and other personal items should be taken home with you. Each student is responsible for keeping up with all parts of his or her uniform. (We don't have extras!)
8. Leave all valuables at home. Remove all earrings, facial piercing, bracelets, rings (anything visible). Don't wear any nail polish.
9. All hair (pony tails, braids, etc.) must fit inside marching uniform hat.
10. Always wear the designated shirt under your uniform--uniformed dress is mandatory.
11. T-shirt, hats, or any type of clothing depicting alcoholic beverages, tobacco, drugs, lewd pictures/messages, obscene language, political messages, etc. are not to be worn during any band activity. We are ambassadors of Raymond High School and Hinds County School District.
12. Designated band t-shirts will be worn for pep rallies.
13. On days of performances, all band students should wear boxer shorts or gym shorts to make it easier when changing into uniforms. During the cold season, we recommend wearing an extra layer of clothes under the uniform for warmth.
14. All uniforms will be cleaned periodically, however, your parent can check the uniform out at any time for personal cleaning (dry cleaning only) and will be held liable for that uniform. If a student's uniform becomes soiled, that student is expected to get the uniform dry cleaned at their own expense.

STUDENT LEADERS

Leadership Team

The Leadership Team is a group of student leaders that work with the band directors in an advisory capacity. These students will also be called on for special presentations, to accept awards, event planning, etc., on behalf of the band. The Leadership Team is made up of Executive Officer, Secretary, Historian, Drum Major(s), Library Crew Chief, Equipment Crew Chief, Uniform Crew Chief, and a representative from each class. To be eligible for an office, candidates must be full participants in the band program, exemplary in attitude, loyalty, dedication, and willing to give of their personal time for the betterment of the Raymond High School Band.





Drum Major/Section Leader/Auxiliary Team Captain/Drum Line Captain

These leaders are selected by directors and staff on the basis of musical/marching ability, service, dedication, loyalty, and leadership qualities. The number of section leaders for each section may vary from section to section and year to year.




All student leaders will carry out the policies and directions of the *Band Handbook*, Band Directors, School, and School Administrators to the best of their abilities. Anytime you question or disagree with specific instructions from a student leader, please avoid confrontation and discuss the problem with the directors at your earliest convenience. Student leaders do not handle money or fund-raising merchandise for any other student. Student leaders cannot give you permission to miss a rehearsal or performance, be tardy, or leave early. Student leaders should be positive role models and work for the best interest of the Raymond Band at all times.

7 Habits of Highly Successful Band Members




1. Be Proactive: A band member is a proactive leader by.....

-  Planning Ahead!!!- Be in the **right place** at the **right time** with the **right equipment** and the **right attitude**.
-  Preparing for class through personal practice. Start early and develop a practice plan for concert and contest music, clinic band auditions, solo & ensemble festivals, college auditions, etc. Expect setbacks and delays, so have a Plan B, C, & D!
-  Communicating with parents, employers, coaches, sponsors, and band director to avoid or detect potential schedule conflicts.
-  Passing all classes by completing homework and studying for tests.





2. Begin With The End In Mind: A band member works toward their goals by.....

-  Creating personal practice plans. Start early and develop a practice plan for concert and contest performances, clinic band auditions, solo & ensemble festivals, college auditions, etc. Expect setbacks and delays, so have a Plan B, C, & D!
-  Practicing and rehearsing everyday with the same focus and attention that the performance deserves. If you practice like a “Division I” band and rehearse like a “Division I” band, you are a Division I band!
-  Practicing from the end of the piece backwards to reinforce the end goal of playing all the way through the piece.




3. Put First Things First: A band member manages time and priorities by.....

-  Creating a personal schedule to track assignments, projects, tests, personal practice time, group practices/rehearsals, performances, auditions, athletic events, work schedule, family events, etc. Focus most of your time and effort on the “big rocks.”
-  Understanding that “work” comes before “play.” When you love your work, work becomes fun. All that work leads to a successful performance, and that is fun!
-  Break down the task into manageable pieces (work section A then B) or concepts (count rhythms, name notes, then play, add style, then dynamics). Set a series of small goals which lead to your big goals.





4. **Think Win-Win:** A band member shows a Win-Win attitude by.....

-  Helping other band students with their music and marching.
-  Showing compromise, cooperation, encouragement, and support.
-  Choosing what is best for the band **and** the individual student.
-  Realizing that the band is only as good as the weakest player. Everyone has a responsibility to the whole team so we can achieve our goals together.





5. **Seek first to Understand, then to be Understood:** A band member shows maturity by.....

-  LISTENING to others. Seek to understand the real issue.
-  Communicating clearly. When it is time to state your side, communicate clearly and effectively without demeaning the other party. Always be respectful of the other party's point of view.
-  Really seeking to understand other people. Everyone on the team is valuable for their strengths. The team helps them strengthen their weaknesses. Learn to understand what drives everyone else in the band.

6. **Synergize:** The *Ultimate Soul* Band synergizes for success by.....

-  Celebrating our differences and strengths.
-  Learning to take advantage of everyone's talents and skills.
-  Creating a plan and working together to achieve our goals.
-  Fostering synergy with other school programs and in the community.

7. **Sharpen the Saw:** A band member takes care of their **Mind, Body,** and **Soul** by....

-  Remembering why you joined band in the first place.
-  Taking time to relax and have some fun every now and then.
-  Enjoying great music. Allow the music to touch your soul.
-  Always being true to yourself, your family, and your spiritual beliefs.

SUPERIOR

BANDS

ALWAYS

THINK

&

ACT

SUPERIOR.