

Rome High Band Handbook



Policies, Procedures, and Traditions
2024-2025

Rome High School
Rome City School District
Rome, Georgia

Band information and calendar are available on the band website at:

www.romebands.net

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What is What: Camps, Letter Jackets, All-State, and more!

Welcome to the Rome High School Band!

We are happy to have you as part of the award-winning Rome High School Band program. Our band is one of the premier programs in the state of Georgia and we look forward to you becoming a member of our band family.

The Rome High School Band program has a long tradition of excellence in shaping students' lives and instilling a rich appreciation for the musical arts. While in band, you will strengthen friendships, gain confidence, and learn the value of teamwork. Our band students also develop strong communication skills, as well as acquire a broader understanding of musical genres, techniques, and theories.

As a student in our band, you will learn the importance of attitude, ability, academics, and accountability and the role they play in your success. This handbook will serve as a guide for you and your family while in the program. Like any successful organization, structure and communication are critical. The policies laid out in the handbook will assist you with questions and expectations.

We are always here to help and assist you whenever needed.

It's going to be a great year in the Rome High School Band. Welcome to the family!

Go Wolves!

Dr. Tab Brown, Director of Bands

Adam Daniel, Assistant Director of Bands

Zach Odom, Assistant Director of Bands

Who We Are

Our Program

Rome High School is the only high school in the Rome City School District. At over 400 members strong, in grades 6-12, the band includes some of the most academically successful students on campus. Many of our band members are frequently in the top ten percent of their class, National Merit Scholars, or participate in varsity athletics.

Musically, over the last thirty plus years, the Rome High School Band has earned numerous superior ratings and first place awards at regional marching contests. The band has also performed on the national stage in events like the Dunkin' Donuts Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia.

Our Rome High School Band is equally as successful in our concert programming. The concert ensembles at Rome have a long history of superior rating at the Georgia Music Educators Large Group Performance Evaluations. The Jazz program historically has also been the gold standard for high school Jazz ensembles around the state.

It is our goal to create lifelong lovers of music who will continue to support music education throughout their lives as a result of their experiences in the Rome High School Band program.

Our Bands

Members of our program are assigned, based on audition, to an ability-based concert band that meets as an academic class. Auditions for these band placements are held each spring. Students will participate in both the marching band and concert band portions of the year and will be enrolled in their respective band class for both the fall and spring semesters.

- **Marching Band**
 - Composed of Brass, Woodwind, Colorguard, and Percussion
 - Perform at all football games, pep rallies, and parades
 - Compete in two regional competitions each fall
 - Rehearse Monday, Tuesday, Thursday throughout football season
- **Wind Ensemble**
 - Most advanced performing ensemble
 - Mostly upperclassmen
 - Level 5-6 literature
 - Required participation in All-State audition process
 - Solo and Ensemble Contest participation
- **Symphonic Band**
 - 2nd highest performing ensemble
 - Preparation band for Wind Ensemble membership
 - Mostly sophomores and juniors
 - Level 4-5 literature
 - Participation in All-State audition process
 - Solo and Ensemble Contest participation
- **Concert Band**
 - 3rd performing ensemble
 - Freshman
 - Goals: gain confidence in ensemble and individual performance skills
 - Level 4 literature
 - Participation in All-State audition process
 - Solo and Ensemble Contest participation
- **Jazz Band**
 - Spring semester performing ensemble
 - Meets after-school only
 - Auditions take place early in first semester
 - Recruiting tour, Spring Concert
 - Must be enrolled in a band class to participate

- **Basketball Band**
 - Spring semester performing ensemble
 - Meets after-school only
 - Auditions take place early in first semester
 - Basketball home games
 - Must be enrolled in a band class to participate
- **Percussion**
 - Percussion students are also members of various concert bands (Wind, Symphonic, Concert)
 - Required participation in marching band contest, rehearsals, and extra performances
 - Participation in Percussion Ensemble
- **Colorguard**
 - Overseen by band directors and Colorguard Coordinator
 - Taught by Colorguard instructor
 - Participate in all Marching band contests, rehearsals, and performances
 - Instrumentalists are eligible to participate in Colorguard

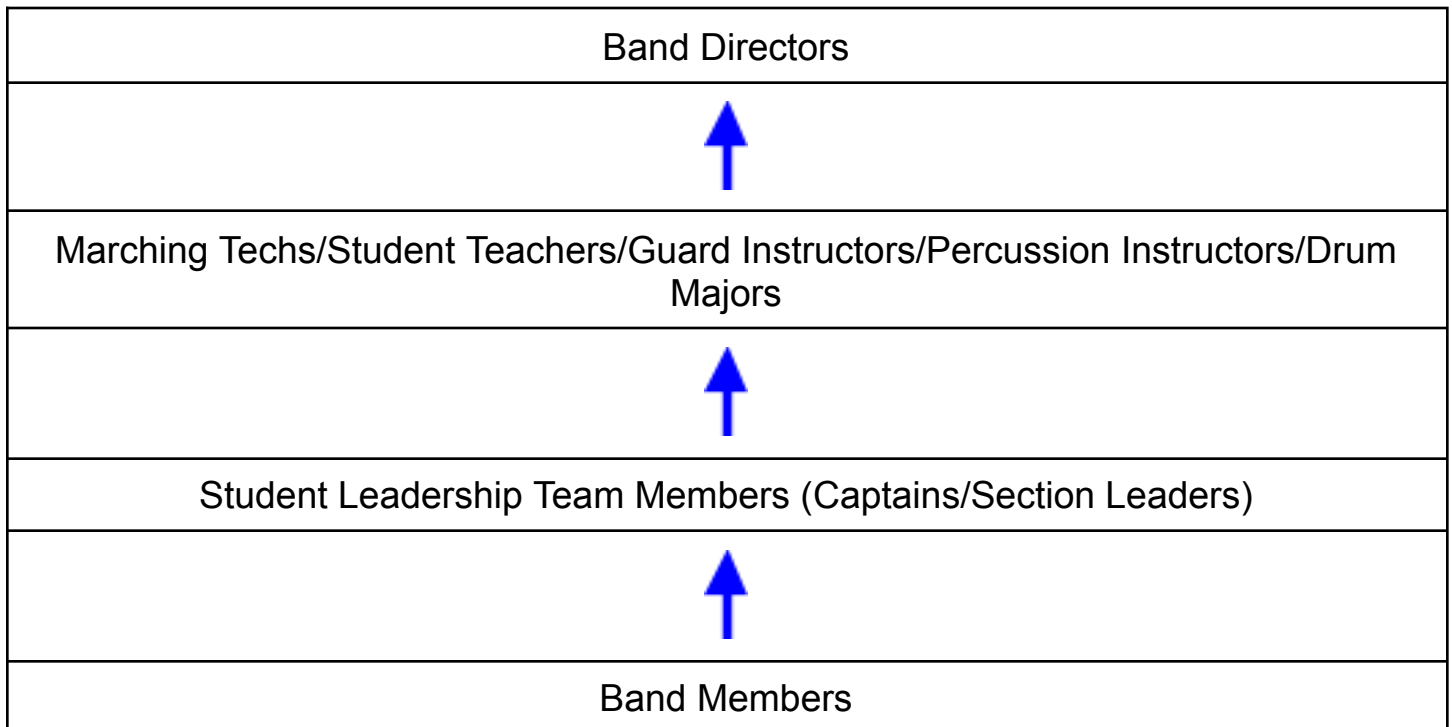
Communication

We encourage the use of effective communication skills while you are a member of the Rome Band family. Part of this training for our students involves what we call the “Chain of Communication.” This structure has been successful in our program for many years but is especially critical during our fall marching season. Please utilize this whenever you have questions or clarification, but always know we are available to assist as well. Additional communication channels are outlined below.

Information will be dispersed in multiple ways to maximize understanding!

Dr. Tab Brown Email: Click to Email Office phone: 706-235-9653 Ext. 1241	Adam Daniel Email: Click to Email Office phone:	Zach Odom Email: Click to Email Office phone:
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Chain of Communication



Communication Methods

Email through Presto Assistant



Presto Assistant is the database system our band utilizes to store student records, send emails, track fees and payments, and much more! Students are already added to Presto when they join band, but parents must also have an account in order to access their student's information and receive emails from the Band Directors.

Website: www.romebands.net



The Rome Band website is a valuable resource for all things band. Here you will find new parent information, upcoming events, financial information, and more! One of the best features of

the site is the ability to sync your personal calendar to the live Google Rome High Band calendar. Stay up-to-date on all things band!

Google Calendar



The directors keep a "live" feed on the website of the Rome Band Google Calendar. This calendar has all dates for competitions, football games, concerts, and more! Add this calendar to your calendar to prepare.

Daily Reminders Slide

"Check the Daily Reminders" is a phrase you will hear often during your years in the Rome Band family. Each week, the directors write a schedule of events, important information, uniform requirements, and more on the reminder slide on the projector. Make a habit of taking a picture of it every Monday during band class!

Social Media

Our Rome High Band social media accounts are run by our Booster Organization and student leadership under the direction of the directors. Go and like both of our platforms today! They are all valuable for communication, live “stories” of events, band pictures, and more!



@Rome Bands



@thesoundofthesevenhills

2024-2025 Linktree:

<https://linktr.ee/romeband>

Member Expectations

General Expectations:

Membership in the Rome High School Band is both an honor and privilege. Our standards are high and we expect each member of our organization to meet and exceed those expectations. Attitude, ability, academics, and accountability are four attributes that are of great importance to our program.

Band is the ultimate team sport and everyone in our group has a leadership role and responsibility. Each person will require the highest level of focus, organization, and preparation in order to achieve a great performance.

Students are also expected to be kind, courteous, attentive, respectful, and motivated at each rehearsal, sectional, and performance.

In addition, all Rome High School Band students are expected to:

- Adhere to the Rome City Schools code of conduct
- Participate in all Rome High School band activities with a kind, respectful, hardworking, and motivated **attitude**. This attitude goes beyond the band and extends to our community as well as towards teachers, fellow students, and other staff members in our organization.
- Advance their musical **ability** by daily practice and instrument maintenance.
- Succeed in **academics** while a member of the band.
- Develop **accountability** and responsibility as it applies to personal and group guidelines, especially as related to attendance.

Behavior Expectations:

- Enter and exit all rehearsal areas in a quiet and orderly manner.
- Know your "Report Time" - Be on time (early) and prepared for all rehearsals, classes, etc. Punctuality and preparation are critical. Report time means arrival 15 minutes prior. *"To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late. To be late is unacceptable."*
- When a director holds up his hand and steps in front of a group, all playing, talking, and movement should cease immediately. Full attention should be given at this time.
- Always perform your best. *"Practice the way you expect to perform. Perform the way you have practiced."*
- Always read and listen to announcements.
- Always wait for instructions from a band director before moving, loading, unloading, or taking action of any kind. Directors will always give you the information you need to know!

- Band members will remain with the group at all times unless specific permission is given by a director. This includes bathroom visits, etc.
- Be prepared with music, the correct uniform, materials, and supplies.
- No food or drink (other than water), candy, or gum, is allowed in the RHS Band Hall or while in uniform (marching or concert) at any time unless specific permission has been given by a director.
- All cell phones may only be used with director's permission. This may include the bus when traveling. Media must only be used with individual headphones and never be audible to anyone else but the user. All media must be school appropriate and in compliance with the Rome City Schools student code of conduct.
- Band members are expected to maintain a clean environment in our facilities and while traveling. Our students always leave a place looking nicer and cleaner than we found it.
- Band members are expected to take utmost care of all band equipment. This includes band instruments, uniforms, music, facilities, etc.
- Only Band students are allowed in the Band Hall and surrounding areas. Only band students are allowed in the stands during football games unless director's permission is specifically given.
- Rome High Band members support all groups affiliated with RCS. This includes groups such as other RCS bands, cheer, athletics teams, etc.
- Rome High Band members always refrain from the use of degrading language, profanity, and obscene gestures. This expectation includes student use of social media. These destructive behaviors will not be tolerated.
- Rome High Band members will speak in a positive manner about our band, fellow band members, and our staff. Please let our directors or the individual know if you have any questions or issues so positive outcomes can happen.

“When in doubt, don’t.” - Benjamin Franklin

If you are ever in doubt about an action, simply don’t do it. You are a representative of a large and distinguished community of musicians that has a stellar reputation. You should always want to reflect positively on yourself, your family, our band family, and our Rome community.

Marching Season Expectations

Uniform:

- Appropriate conduct is expected of all band members while in uniform..
- Uniform parts must be worn correctly at all times.
- Bring all personal uniform pieces to and from school as needed. Do not leave socks, shoes, t-shirts, etc. in the bandhall or in your uniform bag when not in use.
- No eating, gum, drinking (only water) while in uniform unless director approval is given. Do not accept food, drink, etc. from anyone other than band personnel during performance events.
- No running or horseplay while in uniform.
- Band member hair must be completely off the collar and concealed when wearing the band shako. Hair must be ready at call time.
- No colored nail polish or visible jewelry while in uniform.
- Handle all pieces of the uniform correctly and store your uniform on the correct rack when not in use.
- Any damage or loss to the uniform may be the responsibility of the band member. Member may be required to repair or replace as necessary.

Summer Band Uniform	Full Band Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Band T-shirt (tucked in)● Shorts (Appropriate length, color)● Neutral Color socks and tennis shoes● Hair pulled back away from face	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● All uniform pieces● Band t-shirt● Long solid black socks● Black Marching Shoes● Hair fully styled for performance● Cold Weather - Letter Jacket or Black Band Jacket (optional)

Rehearsal Equipment:

- Instrument
- Music Folder, pencil, accessories
- Water jug, filled and iced daily
- Drill Coordinate Chart
- Sunglasses, sunscreen, hat
- Light-colored, loose-fitting clothing
- Flexible Athletic shoes (no sandals)

Concert Season Expectations

Concert etiquette is expected at all times by our band members.

Uniform:

- Gentlemen
 - Tux jacket - purchased
 - Tux pants - purchased
 - White Tuxedo Shirt - purchased
 - Black Bow Tie - purchased
 - Black Cummerbund - Purchased
 - Solid Black Socks- student provides
 - Solid Black Dress Shoes -- student provides
 - Concert Black is often needed for upper level ensembles (jazz band, percussion groups, etc.) Concert Black for gentlemen: black pants, black dress shirt, black belt, black socks, black shoes.

- Ladies
 - Solid black professional concert attire- purchased.
 - Black closed-toe shoes (preferably flats)
 - No excessive jewelry.

Attendance

In order to maintain membership in the Rome High Band program, all students are required to participate in Marching band, as well as a concert band or Color Guard class. Members are expected to attend all required rehearsals and performances in order to maintain membership in the band program. All rehearsals and performances are posted on the Band Calendar located on our website.

Because of the participatory nature of marching band, attendance is required for all rehearsals and performances. Excused absences will be granted only for significant illness, family emergencies, religious holidays/observances, and extenuating circumstances as approved by the director. Non-school-sponsored activities, teams, clubs, or jobs must not conflict. If a student misses a rehearsal the day before a performance, then they will not be allowed to perform. If a student misses multiple rehearsals in a row they may have their attendance grade lowered one letter grade for that week.

Know your "Report Time" - Be on time (early) and prepared for all rehearsals, classes, etc. Punctuality and preparation are critical. Call time means arrival 15 minutes prior. "To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late. To be late is unacceptable."

Conflicts with school activities will happen and can be worked out with proactive communication and compromise. Please ask for an event calendar for all groups that you are a member of to allow time to work out scheduling needs, if necessary. The band director will work with other teachers, coaches, and directors of various school activities to give each member the best opportunity to be a part of multiple extracurricular activities. SAT/ACT testing dates often conflict with band performances. The band calendar is updated with recommended testing dates for your convenience. In the event that a student is testing on the morning following a football game, parent contact is needed more than 24 hours in advance with an opportunity to leave after the halftime performance. Procedures involving checkout, notifications, etc. will be handled based on individual member needs.

All absences must be approved in advance! A written request must be submitted to the band director for approval. ***Do not communicate absences through a peer or student leader.***

Financials

Band Fees

Each year our band members will be required to pay Rome High Band fees that are split into three payments throughout the summer. Any families experiencing financial hardship should consult the band director to discuss payment options.

2024-2025 Rome High Band Membership fees can be paid via cash, check, or online through the student's Presto account.

* Colorguard members are responsible for additional fees not included in this list.

Private Lessons

This year, lessons are available to all of our Rome High School Band woodwind members and will aid in progression through the program. All members are strongly encouraged to take advantage of private lessons with our professional teacher. Lessons begin at \$30 for a private 30-minute lesson. Information will be provided during the first week of classes. Private lesson teachers work on musical fundamentals as well as preparation for All-State auditions and the Solo and Ensemble Contest.

THE Glossary

All-State, District Honor Band

Students in the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Concert Band will be encouraged to learn All-State Music each fall and audition for a place in one of the bands as part of their curriculum.

By auditioning for All-State, students are committing to participating in the following events:

1. Mock All-State Auditions
2. All-State Auditions (Round I and Round II, when applicable for your instrument)
4. Honor Band Clinic/Concert (required for all students who earn a place in the ensemble)
5. All-State Band Clinic/Concert (a very special event for students who earn a place in the All-State Band)

* Specific dates for each of these events are available on the online calendar. School Bus Transportation is provided for most of these events.

Booster Membership

Booster membership is an essential part of a successful band season and allows parents to be directly involved in their student's band experience. The financial support is instrumental in the tools our band uses to be tops in their field. Be thinking about how you can support the band by joining the Rome Band Boosters.

Booster meetings are typically held on the 3rd Monday of the month, at 6:00 pm, in the Rome High School band room.

Booster Email Addresses:

General Information: romebands.boosters@gmail.com

Treasurer: romebandstreasurer@gmail.com

Band Competitions

The Marching Band competes throughout the fall season in marching competitions on two Saturdays. Competition locations are typically within a 2-3 hour radius of the Rome area

Peach State

Peach State marching festival is the marching competition that we host as a program here in Rome. It will always fall on the 4th Saturday in October and benefits the entire band program. The Marching Band will perform in exhibition at the end of the contest and band member will be required to volunteer for at least one work shift during the day.

Call Time

- Know your "Call Time" - Be on time (early) and prepared for all rehearsals, classes, etc. Punctuality and preparation is critical. Call time means arrival 15 minutes prior.
- "To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late. To be late is unacceptable."

Concert Black Uniform

Concert Black Uniform is performance attire for gentlemen if tuxedos are not required. Concert Black is black slacks, solid black dress shirt, black belt, black socks, black dress shoes.

Full Band Uniform

- Full uniform: All uniform pieces (Rome Band t-shirt, jacket, bibbers, gauntlets, gloves, shako)

Half Band Uniform

- All uniform pieces MINUS jacket, shako, gloves, or gauntlet

Letter Jackets

A student must complete their first year of band in order to receive their Letter for band. Each subsequent year of completion the student will receive a gold bar service pin.

Graduation Stoles

Seniors who complete all 4 years of their high school career in the band program will earn their white graduation stole that can be worn with their cap and gown at graduation.

Newsletters

A weekly edition of "The Sound" newsletter will be sent out every Monday morning via School Status throughout the school year.

SLT - Student Leadership Team

Student Leadership Team is composed of students that have been chosen to help lead the band. All student leaders include positions like Drum Major, Captain, Section Leaders, Librarians, Equipment Managers, and more. To obtain an SLT position, members go through a rigorous process each spring that includes teacher reviews, application, and interviews.

Summer Band Camp

Traditionally starts the week after July 4th and continues for two weeks. Members are required to attend the entire Summer Band Camp.

Summer Drum Camp

Traditionally held the week before Summer Band Camp begins

Summer Colorguard Camp

Traditionally held the week before Summer Band Camp. During this camp, members learn valuable equipment and movement fundamentals.