

August 1, 2019

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Riverwatch Band Program! We are looking forward to getting to know each of you throughout the next three years. 6th grade band is a very exciting time – 97% of the students in 6th grade band have never played a band instrument before!

We will have our 6th grade Instrument Tryout night from 5:00-8:00 p.m. on **Monday, August 5th**. *Note: This is a drop-in – please come whenever best fits your schedule during the three hour block.* More information on Tryout Night can also be found on the back of this form and on the band section of the RMS website.

Please take a moment to review the Riverwatch Band Handbook and Calendar posted on the band section of the RMS website (go to the “Academics” tab and click on “Connections”). Once you have reviewed the Riverwatch Band Handbook and Calendar, please go to **MyPaymentPlus** to fill out the acknowledgement form and to order your student’s band polo shirt and book.

Every student in the band will receive their own RMS Band polo shirt, method book, folder, and many pieces of sheet music throughout the year. Students are asked to contribute \$35.00 to cover this expense. Please pay this fee through **MyPaymentsPlus**. *Note: the RMS band polo shirt does not change from year to year, so you may want to choose a size which allows your child to use the same shirt for multiple years.*

We communicate with parents throughout the year based on the email addresses listed in Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Please make sure your email address is up-to-date on Parent Portal so that you will receive band emails.

Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions or concerns (email is always the fastest way to reach us). We are looking forward to a great year with the Riverwatch Bands!

Sincerely,

Mr. Dean Patterson
Director of Bands
dpatterson99@forsyth.k12.ga.us

Mr. Hunter McGee
Associate Director of Bands
hmcgee42@forsyth.k12.ga.us

Message from Forsyth County Schools:

Due to the real-world, applicable project and performance-based learning environment of Performing Arts education related to a student's unique interests, supplies and equipment/instruments may be needed for student's own possession and use/performance. If you have specific questions or concerns, please reach out to your student's Performing Arts teacher.

2019-20 Riverwatch Band Calendar for 6th Grade

Monday, August 5th – **6th Grade Instrument Tryout Night** (drop-in between 5:00-8:00 p.m.)

Friday, September 6th – **Band Rock-a-thon!** (Cafeteria, 4:30-9:30 p.m.)

Thurs., Sept. 26th – **6th Grade Preview Concert** (Gym, students report at 6:40 p.m., starts at 7:00 p.m.)

December TBD – **Winter Concert** (Gym, students report at 6:40 p.m., starts at 7:00 p.m.)

Saturday, April 18th – **District Solo & Ensemble Festival** (optional opportunity for all band students)

Thursday, May 14th – **Spring Concert** (Gym, students report at 6:40 p.m., starts at 7:00 p.m.)

Questions about Instrument Tryout Night?

Instrument Tryout Night is an opportunity for 6th graders to try instruments at different stations. Each station will have a professional on that instrument giving each student a numerical score. The score has nothing to do with effort, work ethic, or intelligence. The score is only a measure of each student's natural aptitude based on the physical characteristics of their face. Most students prefer to learn an instrument where they will be able to excel and play challenging, fun music. All students are encouraged to participate with an open mind ☺

During Instrument Tryout Night, representatives from two different instrument rental companies will be available for your convenience. Most families choose to rent at the beginning of the band experience rather than purchase. Typical rental fees are a few dollars for the first few months and then various plans afterwards. We encourage parents to shop around as much as they feel comfortable.

It does not matter where you rent from. It **does** matter that your student has a quality instrument. Please check with me if you are getting an instrument that is not an approved brand as listed on the Riverwatch website. Much like any other product, some instruments that are very cheaply made cannot be fixed once they break.

Visit the Riverwatch Band Website for more information. Go to the Riverwatch Middle School home page, click on the “Academics” tab, then go to “Connections” and click on “Band.”

Did you know ...

The Riverwatch Band received the 2019 Georgia Music Educators Association Exemplary Performance Award. This is the highest honor awarded by GMEA.

The Riverwatch Band was the 2017 recipient of The Sudler Silver Cup, presented by The John Philip Sousa Foundation. This is the highest honor a middle school band program can possibly achieve.

Riverwatch Band has been recognized on the international and national level by “The Midwest Clinic”, “National Band Association”, “Bands of America”, and the “National Foundation for Music Education”.

The Riverwatch Band has had the highest number of students earn position in GMEA's Ninth District Honor Band for the past 10 years.

WELCOME to the Riverwatch Band!