



RUHS Ranger Bands Rincon/University High School Student Handbook

Revs. 8/12/09

The Band Program at Rincon/ University has established itself as one of the finest in TUSD and the state of Arizona. Students here have had experiences of which others can only dream. Few other activities offer the travel opportunities, the chance to meet and interact with the legends in the field, and the satisfaction of knowing that your time, talent, and effort have paid off through the highest levels of achievement.

Parents

Welcome to one of the most exciting organizations available to your student! The band program at Rincon/University High Schools offers many varied performance opportunities and gives members the chance to learn with each other and grow closer to one another. We strive to offer the best available instruction and the widest array of events for our members.

I strongly believe that there is a place for everyone in the band. We have hundreds of success stories. Many times, members who thought that they were not interested have become some of the most dedicated members once they have been a part of the experience. If you too choose to participate, you can reap a variety of rewards. In addition to all of this, you become a member of a very active, multifaceted family. The band program at Rincon/University has established itself as one of the finest anywhere, with superb performing ensembles in marching, symphonic, solo and ensemble, color guard/danceline, twirler and percussion ensembles.

I hope that you share our excitement in creating these phenomenal opportunities for the students. We encourage parents to be active supporters of our efforts through booster club participation (the Rincon/University Marching Band Association or "RUMBA"), assistance in fundraising, and through volunteer work such as chaperones, equipment crew, or as a parent leader. I also hope that you will be visible supporters of the students by attending as many performances as possible. The band program produces a calendar kept on our website www.rangerband.org; you'll want to keep it nearby. Feel free to e-mail the director or a RUMBA officer with questions and remember to come to the RUMBA meetings to get the latest information about each event.

Rarely do you see such a large group of students assembled in one organization with such a strong focus on achieving excellence. Take the opportunity to get to know the instructors, other parents, and the members who make our success a reality.

Brian T. Wolfe

Director of Bands

Four Steps to the Handbook:

1) Please read all materials carefully. It is YOUR responsibility to know the expectations of the various groups. A number of changes have been made, so even veteran members need to review all the materials carefully.

Watch for *NEW* as you go through the book. These will highlight changes being put into place.

2) On-Line Materials. All materials are available on-line at: www.rangerband.org
We will continue to use the web site more and more to aid in communication between the director and the 180 students and their families. Please check the web site often for updated information.

3) Students are asked to share all information found in this **Ranger Band & Auxiliary Handbook** with their parents. The 2009-2010 handbook is geared to the entire instrumental music program, which consists of a number of different organizations and ensembles.

4) Refer to this book all year. This information has been put together to give each member and their parents a constant set of guidelines to help them in the everyday operation of the band program.

This book has evolved over the years into an extensive manual to help your band experience be **educational, organized, and enjoyable.**

The Rincon/University Bands form an integral part of school life and are recognized as an all-school activity. Band is one of the largest and most active voluntary student organizations and its members form an active group.

The primary objectives of the band program are:

Cultural - To foster the continued development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of the best in music.

Educational - To develop interested and discriminating listeners, provide a well-rounded musical education and prepare members for musical activities beyond high school.

Service - To lend color and atmosphere to certain school and community affairs while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Rincon/University High School at all appearances.

Citizenship - To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the group, to enhance the member's ability to interact with others in a positive manner, and to develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the community.

Recreational - To provide all members with the opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet, and good social experiences.

BAND PROGRAM OPTIONS

Students may enroll in band as a class, which meets during the normal school day. These classes are referred to as Wind Symphony and Concert Winds. All students enrolled in band as a class are also members of the football home game pep band and parade band, also known as The Ranger Marching Band.

Jazz Ensemble

Sophomore, Junior and Senior year students may elect to enroll in jazz ensemble as a class, which meets during the normal school day. Students in jazz ensemble must first be enrolled in a concert band. Auditions for the Jazz Ensemble are during the spring semester.

Percussion Ensemble

In the fall we will focus on marching percussion skills and during the spring semester will focus on percussion technique and world percussion studies.

Danceline/Guard and Twirlers

Membership in the Ranger Marching Band may be obtained by auditioning for danceline/guard or twirlers during the spring semester.

Concert Band

Because the marching band performs so often in public, concert season seems “forgotten”. This is far from being true. Concert season is the time when the majority of musical training takes place. Each band spring/fall receives a performance rating during the ABODA contest which is the basis for evaluating the entire band program.

Auditions are held during the spring semester and band selections are announced in March to facilitate the students’ class schedules. Several concerts are presented and are open to the public. These are wonderful, well-attended concerts and you will hear challenging music. This is a great time to invite the grandparents, aunts and uncles and let them hear “what else the Ranger Bands can do.”

CONTESTS

The ABODA State Concert Contests are held in April. The concert bands travel to area high schools where they perform and are critiqued and scored by judges. Each band performs their concert music followed by the sight-reading portion of the contest. The band is given music they (or the director) have never seen or heard and have approximately 5 minutes to talk their way through the piece. They then receive a “one timeshot” at their performance. Many do not understand that ABODA concert contests are open to the public. Even though performance times are sometimes inconvenient, parents are encouraged to come hear and applaud the bands.

SPRING CONCERT BAND TRIP

A spring trip is typically taken every other year for all senior high concert bands. The location of the trip varies. The primary objective of this trip is to provide a “world class” venue in which the bands can perform, and to play for nationally acclaimed adjudicators or clinicians. Costs for the trip vary. A payment schedule will be announced. As with all Rincon/University Band trips, plenty of adult supervision is available. Student conduct rules are strictly enforced and those not complying will be sent home at their parent’s expense. You will receive complete details, which include cost, locations, times, and phone numbers prior to departure.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE/ REGIONAL AUDITIONS

These contests are sponsored by the AMEA/ABODA. These contests give the band member and director a good idea of how each member is progressing musically. District Solo and Ensemble/Regional is held in January at the University of Arizona, School of Music. Students will be given plenty of time to prepare a solo or ensemble performance. Pre-selected regional audition music is available to all students during the fall. **All band members are required to participate for a passing grade during the spring semester.** Band members who become All-State musicians are highly praised and honored. These students assemble at one of the three state universities in April to perform. The bands and orchestras made up of these wonderful musicians represent the top high school band members in the state of Arizona. Advancing to All-State is the highest individual honor a high school musician can achieve.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons give the student a chance to progress at an accelerated rate towards the mastery of his/her instrument. The private instructor is able to work with the student on an individual level, gearing the lessons to fit the specific needs of the performer. The student is able to hear the improvement in playing almost immediately, unlike the full band setting where players can “hide” or cover their areas of inexperience by allowing stronger players to carry the weight of the section.

Our instructors are professional players who are approved by the Tucson Unified School District. Students with the benefits of private lessons have a history of becoming top players in the program (and sometimes become private lesson instructors themselves while in college).

The cost per lesson varies with the instructor, as does the location. Some teach at home, others at area music stores, and some at our neighboring universities. It is well worth the time and effort of scheduling lessons if the student can achieve higher ranking in his musical ensembles. A list of private instructors will be provided through the Band Office as teacher schedules become available.

SPRING AUDITION

The spring semester is a very busy time for all band members. Auditions for concert bands, drum majors, section leaders, drill captains, danceline/guard, twirlers, and drum line are all held during this time. Your band member will be able to get information from the director if they choose to tryout for any of these positions.

BAND BANQUET

The Rincon/University Band holds an annual awards banquet in the spring. The purpose of the banquet is to reflect upon the year’s accomplishments, to honor those who have realized special achievements, and to recognize graduating seniors for their years of service to the band. Participation certificates and outstanding achievement awards are also presented at the banquet as well. We strive to make the banquet a special evening for everyone and the format changes slightly from year to year. This special evening brings the band together one last time to review the year and wish the seniors a fond farewell.

The location varies from year to year but it is usually held in the cafeteria and is considered a formal evening. Students are expected to look their best, no jeans or shorts. A fee is collected to cover the cost of the dinner.

MARCHING BAND

Description

The Ranger Marching Band is a competitive marching band. It strives to utilize the latest trends in competitive marching band design while providing a performance that entertains the fans at games.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals for the Ranger Marching Band will take place at a variety of times and places, but are not limited to the following:

*School Band Class: Students will rehearse various musical and visual techniques during their band class that meets during the school day.

*Tuesday/Friday After School Rehearsals: The Ranger Marching Band will utilize the time during after school rehearsals to learn the contest show each week.

*Dress Rehearsal: A Dress Rehearsal will take place after school at the band practice field on each date of a home football game. Transportation will be provided by the school district for all away games.

A detailed calendar with all rehearsal and performance dates and times will be provided to each member in the band as well as posted on the internet at www.rangerband.org.

*Sectional Rehearsal: An additional rehearsal per week devoted to just the members particular section (i.e. Percussion, Guard, Horn line, etc.) this time will be determined by your section leader. **Attendance is mandatory.**

*Extra Rehearsals: Friday nights when we do not have a home game and before a contest. The rehearsal time will be announced a week or more in advance and can be found at www.rangerband.org on the calendar.

Band Camp

The end of July is the beginning of our busy marching season. Attendance at band camp is mandatory so plan vacations accordingly. Speak to the director with any concerns. The summer band camp will consist of the most concentrated rehearsal time for the entire season. During this time, we build fundamental skills and teach a portion of the marching show. As you can imagine, this puts important emphasis on this camp as we have 8-hour rehearsal days. Comfortable tennis shoes, light colored clothes, and a hat are the best type of attire. It also will be necessary to have a small water jug, sunscreen, and sunglasses. Cost and location of camp will be provided in February of the spring semester.

Some of the things happening at this camp include:

Learning show music, learning drill, uniform distribution, learning “stand tunes” (music for football games and pep rallies), collection of camp fees, purchasing gloves and shoes, lots & lots of bonding between old and new band members.

Football Games

Fridays in the fall semester become pretty fast paced for the Ranger Marching Band. The members will have a rehearsal after school is dismissed, then the band will be fed dinner on campus, at the student’s cost. Following the dinner break, the members will have time to change into uniform and make necessary adjustments prior to the designated report time at the basketball courts. Warm-ups and inspections will take place prior to marching to the stadium for home games **or** before pre-game performance at “away” games.

The buses leave the stadium as soon as possible after each game. If you need to pick up your non-driving band member, you can wait in the north parking lot, but beware, there are many cars doing just the same thing. Car-pooling with other parents/students might be a good alternative to this problem.

Special events

From time to time, special events may arise in addition to school ball games, contests, parades, concerts, and other such appearances. Participation in special events not previously scheduled will be at the discretion of the band director and school officials after conferring with the band regarding the feasibility of the event. The band is not able to accept all invitations for obvious reasons and is not able to do instant performances. It is the policy of the band to cooperate as much as possible with special requests for performances.

Financial Obligations

Each band member’s costs and fees are based on but not limited to the following:

- Uniform Accessories: Each Horn line and Percussion student purchases their uniform shoes, uniform T-shirt, black shorts, black socks, gloves. These items are ordered as a group to achieve the lowest possible discount pricing to each student.
- Trip Food: The members are fed before every ballgame performance and at contests.
- Out-of-State contests: Each member pays or will fundraise their share of the overall cost for the band to travel to an out-of-state event. This cost includes transportation, lodging, meals, entertainment, etc. for the entire trip.
- \$50 TUSD Activities Fee: Each student will pay a fee that in turn will help offset the cost of contest and AIA fees. This will be paid to the **RUHS Finance Office** in August **before** any student can travel with the band.
- Auxiliary Fees: Because of the continual evolution of the Danceline/Winter Guard and twirler program, it is difficult to foresee exact costs to members. However, typical costs include: Uniform, Performance Shoes, and Specialized Equipment.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

The RUHS Jazz Band meets during the school day. Admission to this group is based on tryout performance during the spring semester. The jazz band performs at various events in the area and competes in jazz band contests. Concerts are held throughout the school year. Be sure to mark your calendar for these extraordinary performances. All performances are required and missed performances will affect the grade for the class.

WINTER GUARD

Winter guard performs a 3-4 minute routine in the gym to recorded music. Not only is there an effort to perform well for winter guard, but also this activity helps strengthen the color guard for the upcoming marching season. We offer two guards, one a WGI competitive guard and a "B" guard that focuses on improving equipment and movement skills through in art of performing.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

A special concert is held each spring featuring the Ranger Band percussionists. The students perform music that they have learned for Solo & Ensemble Contest and new ensemble pieces that they put together for the show.

CHALLENGES FOR 2009-2010 SOME NEW & SOME OLD

- 1. THE 2009-2010 BANDS WILL MEET DEADLINES!** We will be trying some new things to help with this age old problem.
- 2. Work hard when it is time to work - AVOID WASTING TIME.**
- 3. Be sure to understand and follow the band rules. Our goal must always be to project the proper image of ourselves & our organization.**
- 4. Practice at HOME.** "You practice" - "We Rehearse" You will do both. Practice makes permanent, only perfect practice makes perfect performances.
- 5. We, Us NOT I, Me. THERE IS NO MORE IMPORTANT GOAL THAN THIS!
LEARN AND DEMONSTRATE THE TRUE MEANING OF RESPECT AND GRATITUDE.**
- 6. Individual perfection** takes place outside of full rehearsal. Get music and routine memorized as soon as possible. Don't put things off until the last minute; by then it is too late! **Strive to be the first to get things done!**
- 7. Learn to have total concentration** at practice and performances.
- 8. Learn to develop a quiet** learning atmosphere.
In other words: Learn to **LISTEN** not just **HEAR**. *Special emphasis area!*
- 9. Learn to be organized. Special emphasis area!**
- 10. Allow instructors to teach** not baby sit!
TEAMWORK = STAFF + STUDENTS WORKING TOGETHER
- 11. Learn to deal with it!** Be a part of the solution not part of the problem.
- 12. Be dedicated to the GROUP** during band camp, and all during the season. Do what the **group needs**, which may not be what is most convenient or comfortable for YOU.
GET TO KNOW THE PEOPLE IN THE TOTAL GROUP, NOT JUST YOUR SMALL GROUP OF CLOSE FRIENDS!
- 13. BE PROUD OF ALL OF YOUR DECISIONS, ACTIONS, AND EFFORTS!
Now and more importantly throughout life!
Obtaining the goals on this page is what:
MAKES BAND FUN!, MAKES BAND GREAT!,
& MAKES YOU MEET YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL!**

Four Simple Rules To Remember & To Live By:

1. If you would not do it or say it while standing next to Mr. Wolfe it is probably not appropriate behavior, **AND WILL NOT TAKE PLACE!** As part of the Rincon/University High School Band **YOU** have a large number of responsibilities that come along with **THE HONOR OF MEMBERSHIP.**
2. “You” are responsible for actions and behaviors of The Rincon/University High School Bands. “You” are responsible for each other, and remember “Honesty Is Everything”
3. A constant emphasis will be put on “Maturity”. Mr. Webster states Maturity as: Having attained a high quality or desired state by constant growth and development, often displayed by doing the appropriate thing at the appropriate time.
4. **“If everyone did it would it work?”**

GENERAL POLICIES

1. TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND BEHAVIOR

The members of the band will follow all TUSD rules regarding Tobacco, Alcohol, Drugs and Behavior. **Rule violations in this area will not be tolerated.**

2. FOOD, GUM, TRASH, ETC.

These items are not allowed at practice. **No TRASH, DRILL BOOKS, MUSIC or WATER BOTTLES** are to be left at any rehearsal or performance site. **There is to be no gum in the band room at any time.** Each section will be assigned game and contest days to clean the band room. **ALL RULES IN THIS AREA WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED IN THE BAND ROOM!**

3. PLAYING YOUR INSTRUMENT AT GAMES

All playing will be done in an orderly manner and be directed by the Director or the Drum Majors. **NO ONE**, including PERCUSSION is to play in the stands without permission!!

4. FOOTBALL GAMES

All band members are to be seated in stands **BY SECTION** at all times. **NON-BAND MEMBERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SIT WITH THE BAND**, due to the instrument safety, uniform safety, etc.

When using the restroom you must always be in groups of 2 or more! Only 1 group at a time is allowed to leave the stands area and must check back in with Mr. Wolfe before the next group will be allowed to leave the stands.

YOU MUST CONDUCT YOURSELF PROPERLY BECAUSE YOU REPRESENT THE BAND AND RINCON/UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL. REMEMBER: WE WANT TO TAKE THE HIGH ROAD AT ALL TIMES.

5. PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

All school policies will be enforced. **THINK!** - Don't let your actions infringe on others. **This is in effect on all bus rides as well! STUDENTS MAY LOSE PERFORMANCE PRIVILEGES DUE TO INFRACTIONS OF THIS RULE!**

6. SPORTSMANSHIP

Think before you speak or act. Like Mama always said: “If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.”

7. UNIFORMS

A complete set of uniform care instructions are in this handbook, **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR YOUR UNIFORM!** Students are responsible for the uniform for the entire season.

WE ARE ONLY AS GOOD AS WE LOOK. THE RINCON/UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL BAND UNIFORM IS A SYMBOL OF PRIDE AND DIGNITY TO MANY PEOPLE. TREAT IT WITH THE UTMOST RESPECT AT ALL TIMES. NEVER ALLOW ANYONE TO WEAR ANY PART OF YOUR UNIFORM.

8. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is mandatory for all scheduled rehearsals and performances. The following rules will govern authorized absences: personal illness or family emergency, religious observance, and conflicts with other school activities. An absence for any other reason will be considered unexcused. Absences make it difficult for the other performers in the ensemble to rely on you for performance. Anyone with an unexcused absence will become an alternate. The student MUST notify the band director well in advance of the date of conflict. One week before a pre scheduled conflict is **not** an advanced notification. It is not possible to make up a practice or performance, and an extra burden is put on all the other members when an absence occurs.

An ABSENT FROM REHEARSAL FORM (**BLUE FORM**) must be filled out in the first two weeks at the **beginning of the semester** if you have conflicts with the calendar. If absence is due to illness, the student is responsible for filling out the form at the next rehearsal they are present at. No form will be accepted incomplete. Please see form on the piano for questions.

A member who misses the rehearsal before a performance will not be permitted to march at that performance. That member will stand on the sideline during the performance.

9. A complete grading policy will be included in the handbook. Students will be assigned recorded and live playing tests throughout the school year. These test scores will be used as part of the student's class grade.

10. Each member should bring water to practice in a plastic container, camelback, etc. Members will not share a drinking cup, etc. DO NOT bring soft drinks, etc. Water coolers will be provided at most rehearsals to refill any personal water containers.

11. All marching band students will wear proper footwear to all practices. The TUSD dress code will apply at all out of school rehearsals.

CARE OF YOUR RANGER MARCHING BAND UNIFORM

1. Check your uniform weekly for any needed repairs. (hems, buttons, etc.) Report any needed repairs to the uniform committee.
2. The white band t-shirt must always be worn under the band jacket. Black shorts must be worn under the band pants. You must be wearing the T-Shirt and Shorts prior to receiving your uniform. Only **YOU** can pick up or drop off the uniform to the uniform room.
3. Have someone else zip your jacket. Do not try to zip your own. You need to see what you are doing. (The jacket zipper is in the back)
4. Remove your shoes **before** you ever remove your band pants, shoes will rip out the hems!!!
5. Do not pull or cut loose threads. Report them to a uniform committee member.
6. Wash your gloves before every performance (An extra pair of gloves is a good idea for two show weekends).
7. Wear only black socks with the uniform. Keep an extra pair in your band locker.
8. Keep all the parts of your uniform buttoned and zipped at all times until told to remove the uniform.
9. NO HORSEPLAY EVER IN UNIFORM, EVER!
10. Stay away from fences, buses, walls, etc. Wearing a white jacket requires extra thought.
11. Report problems ASAP. Don't wait until the last second to get a uniform problem fixed.
12. Some emergency repairs can be fixed at a performance. REPORT PROBLEMS RIGHT AWAY!
13. **Water is the only beverage allowed while in uniform!!**
14. Only handle the hat while wearing gloves, you will only remove the hat when instructed to do so. At no time should anyone switch hats or let a non-band member wear the hat.
15. Shoes should be polished prior to each competition, use a damp cloth or glass cleaner to renew the shine. (ex. Windex).

PROCEDURES (How we do what we do)

I. Alternates:

Some members of the Ranger marching band will be alternates. Members become alternates after evaluation of their marching and playing performance. Members who are alternates will be assigned a permanent marching position as soon as one becomes available. Positions become available as the members assigned to the position encounter attendance problems, eligibility problems, or physical injuries. Alternates will be ranked by their ability level and will be assigned to the open position. Instrumentation will be adhered to when possible.

II. Buses

Seating:

Band members may be required to sit in designated seats as seating rules for some trips may be different from for other trips. The Director will notify band members of the process for each bus trip. Generally, band members are permitted to sign up to request specific seats and seatmates on specific buses. Band members who fail to sign up will be assigned a seat and bus by the director.

All TUSD bus rules apply to all band trips: **this means** stay seated and facing forward when buses are in motion and do not distract the driver by making loud noises or yelling.

Chaperones:

NEW: Chaperones will ride on buses and be seated in the front and back of the bus. Band members are expected to respond appropriately to directions given by chaperones and drum majors. Anyone found not following the bus rules or talking back to chaperones or drivers will be removed from the bus. Students who are not able to follow TUSD bus rules will be accompanied by their parent for all trips.

III. Rehearsals

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL RANGER BAND, GUARD & TWIRLER MEMBERS

Responsibility to yourself: You owe yourself the benefit of **TRYING**. **TRYING** to play your best, **TRYING** to march your best, **TRYING** to perform your guard routine the best you can, **TRYING** to get along with others.

TRYING TO BE THE BEST PERSON YOU CAN BE: Your job is always to help contribute to the success of the group and NEVER take away from that success!

Responsibility to Each Other: (This Is The Only Way To Have Teamwork)

Getting along with each other in our complex society has become a task in itself. You have the obligation and responsibility to respect the rights of others. Disruptive behavior will only breed that same thing in others and bring unwanted trouble into the band. **Excessive talking, rumors, bad manners, etc. are all examples of disruptive behavior.**

Please respect the rights of others both in and out of rehearsal, **and treat others as you wish to be treated.**

YOU ARE EITHER PART OF THE SOLUTION OR PART OF THE PROBLEM, THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU ACT OR SPEAK!

IV. Football games

*Band assembly times will vary with the football schedule, and will be announced one week prior to the day of the game, this information will ONLY be on the band room whiteboard.

*Members will change into FULL uniform in a facility on campus. Once dressed in uniform, all members will remain in FULL uniform for the entire event. NEVER wear a “partial” uniform, unless instructed by the director.

*Instrument cases will not be needed, except in the event of inclement weather. All instruments and uniform parts should be CLEAN and in good condition. Instruments should be cleaned regularly to remove the excess dirt that accumulates when playing outdoors.

*No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advance of group dismissal at any time, unless excused by the director. Students must travel in pairs at all times they are away from the group. While seated in the stands, only band members are allowed in the set. The band will always sit in assigned seats and sections.

*Attention should be given to the Band Director and Drum Majors when they are standing in front of the band.

*We play only as a group in the stands. Solo performance is strictly prohibited. No inappropriate cheers. Organized cheers, planned ahead of time, or done with the cheerleaders are permitted, once approved by the director prior to a ballgame.

*Members should avoid jumping around in the stands, and should remain seated whenever possible in order to avoid accidental damage to the instruments.

*In order to move from place to place in a rapid manner, we must be able to give instructions to the group in an organized manner. Everyone will give full attention to staff members, chaperones, or to the Drum Majors when instructions are being given.

*Members will ride buses back to Rincon/University following away games and will be released after the announcements. It is requested that parents and friends DO NOT PARK in unmarked areas or on the curb, in order to prevent hazardous conditions involving the buses and equipment truck.

*Members are personally responsible for loading and unloading their own equipment from trucks and buses.

POLICIES, RULES, REGULATIONS

I. Observance of Policies, Rules, Regulations

A. Band members are expected to behave properly at **all** times.

B. Misbehavior reflects poorly on the band, school, and community.

C. Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the policies of TUSD and the Band Program by their proper behavior.

D. Professed ignorance of policies will not be accepted as an excuse for misbehavior.

E. Every effort is made to provide policies. However, directors and chaperones may find it necessary to add to or alter policies. These may or may not be in writing as the situation allows.

1. Policies and directions delivered verbally should be considered the same as a written policy.

II. Attendance & Absences

A. School Attendance: Students may be temporarily excused from school under the following conditions:

1. When personally ill and when attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others.

2. On special and recognized religious holidays observed by their faith.

3. Death in the family or accident.

B. Absences from Required Rehearsals or Performances

1. Attendance is mandatory for all scheduled rehearsals and performances.

2. The following rules will govern authorized absences:

a. Personal illness or family emergency

b. Conflicts with other school activities

- Notify your band director well in advance of the date of conflict. One week before a conflict is **not** an advanced notification.

c. Religious observance

d. An absence for any other reason will be considered unexcused.

3. The band director should be notified of absence prior to the required rehearsal or performance by using the **BLUE FORM** located on the piano in the band room. It is the **student's responsibility** to fill out the form and submit to the director **PRIOR** to the absence. The director will determine the assignment needed to make up points if the absence is excused, this assignment must be

submitted to the director within **1 week** following the return to class to receive credit.

4. A written verification from the school attendance office is needed upon return to school, as per school policy.

C. Consequences of unexcused absences

1. An unexcused absence may result in a reduction of grade.

2. Any absence from an after school rehearsal, excused or unexcused, will result in the student not performing at the following performance.

D. Process

1. First absence: Student and Director conference.

2. Second absence: Student is placed as an alternate by the Director.

a. If the student is already an alternate and obtains more than the allowed number of absences, his/her grade will be affected or he/she may be removed from the group.

b. If an alternate is not available at the time the student is removed from the performing group, the student will not perform in two consecutive performances. Thereafter, the student may return to his/her position. This procedure is followed so that the performance ability of the group is not further jeopardized. However, the student's grade may be affected.

E. Tardy: Marching Band

1. A student will be deemed tardy if he/she is not in his/her assigned position when roll is taken. Roll will be taken as soon as set is called by the director. On after school rehearsals, the attendance is taken at the listed **call time**. For extra rehearsals, the start time given will be the time used for attendance.

2. Band members should attempt to avoid conflicts between band and other school activities that will cause them to be tardy. The director will help resolve conflicts. Members must resolve conflicts **in advance** of the date of the conflict.

3. Student attendance will be used as a portion of the participation grade, a loss of points will occur based upon absence or tardy status.

III. Alternates for Marching Band

A. Review alternate policy in procedures section.

IV. Band room(s), practice facilities, rehearsals

A. Access to band rooms, practice facilities, and rehearsals is limited to **band members only**, unless authorized by the director.

B. Food or drink is **not** permitted in band rooms, practice facilities, and rehearsals unless authorized by the director.

C. Instrument storage lockers

1. Members are assigned a specific cabinet for storage of instruments/accessories. Use the locker assigned to you.

2. Lockers must be kept clean, locked and free of marching band items once the season is over. You are responsible for returning your lock at the end of the semester or will be charged \$5 for the replacement lock.

D. Personal items

1. TUSD and the band director are not responsible for personal items left in the band room or on busses.

2. Store personally owned instruments in instrument lockers with the lock locked.

E. Practice

1. Band members may practice in the band room and practice facilities before and after school.

2. Practice rooms are for personal or ensemble practice or study only.
3. Practice individually between rehearsals!

F. Director

1. No one will be allowed in the band office without the director's permission. Students will not be allowed to use the computer or phone during school hours. Please knock before entering and present yourself in a respectable manner.
2. The buck stops here. Yes means **Yes**, No means **No** and Now means **Now**.

V. Rehearsals

- A. You owe it to yourself to always try. Trying to play your best, march your best, perform your routine the best and while always being positive and productive. Always trying to get the most commitment, focus, and energy possible out of yourself.
- B. Be early to rehearsal at least 10 to 15 minutes and warm-up on your instrument and stretch. Be prepared mentally, physically and musically for rehearsal to begin on time.
- C. Avoid Wasting Time. Develop a quiet learning atmosphere at rehearsals.
- D. Be respectful and patient with ALL instructors. Help them help you by being polite, attentive, and helpful. They put forth a great amount of effort to make the Ranger Bands amazing.
- E. Accept criticism with out excuses. Criticism should always be given and received in a constructive manner. Do not take it personally and do not make it personal when you are receiving or giving criticism.
- F. Every single member of this group is **accountable** for the success of the whole band.
- G. Memorize all music and routines. To memorize music and routines is not just "knowing most of it". Music will be completely memorized including all dynamic markings, articulation markings, rehearsal letters-**EVERYTHING!**

VI. Dismissal

- A. The Director and staff are responsible for band members until events are completed.
- B. Remain with the band or ensemble until dismissed following all events. Students who leave the group without permission of the director will receive disciplinary action.
- C. Band members and their parents should arrange for transportation prior to dismissal from events. Members may choose to notify parents that events are completed using personal phones. Students will be chaperoned home by the Tucson Police Department if students remain at the band room when the director is ready to leave.
- D. Parents may request to provide transportation for their child after the conclusion of performances. Such requests must be presented in writing **prior** to departure from the Rincon/University band room before the event.

VII. Eligibility

- A. All members must be eligible to compete according to guidelines set by TUSD and AIA.
- B. Eligibility is defined as passing (60% or better) in all classes.
 1. A member that is reported failing by a teacher will be placed on **INELIGIBLE STATUS** and will become an alternate.
 2. A member who is reported failing after a *second* quarter progress report will lose their position on the field for the remainder of the season.
 3. Students may **become eligible** during a quarter progress report to retain their performance position in the group.

- C. Ineligible members **may not compete nor travel** with the group in any capacity. In order to maintain the integrity of the group, the directors have the responsibility to replace or reassign positions as needed to cover the absence of ineligible members.
- D. Students must be academically eligible to audition for student staff, auxiliaries and jazz band.

VIII. Hazing, Initiation

- A. Hazing or initiating is banned.

X. Internet Etiquette

A. Background

1. There are an abundance of newsgroups and blogs visited by band members and parents. These sites are a great way to hear about what bands are doing around the country.
2. Though entertaining, these places are littered with posts, which reflect poorly on individuals and organizations. It's obvious that many people either don't realize or don't care that their personal thoughts, when subjective or inflammatory, reflect on their entire group.
3. Unfortunately, we've had incidents where someone from a TUSD band posted something they thought innocent, but it upset others when taken a certain way and drew criticism. Even when not intended, this is embarrassing.

B. Policy: Be smart and aware of the comments you place on band related newsgroups and blogs.

1. The safest way to avoid criticism or scrutiny is NOT to post. However, if you choose to post comments remember that you are speaking on behalf of the whole Rincon/University Band and we want to continue our first-class reputation.
2. This policy applies to members and parents.

XI. Medications on trips

A. TUSD has very specific policies on student administration of medications on band trips.

1. All medication must be given to the director or notification of prescription medication must be given to the director when on any trip.

XII. Misbehavior

A. Consumption of alcohol, drugs, smoking

1. Drinking alcohol, taking drugs, smoking, chewing tobacco, or dipping is not permitted.
2. Violation of this policy may result in immediate dismissal.
3. Violation of this policy at an event, which requires overnight travel, may result in being sent home in advance of the conclusion of the event.
 - a. All costs associated with being sent home in advance will become the responsibility of the member and/or their family. This will include the cost of transportation for the member and a chaperone.

B. Destruction or damaging of property

1. Clearly apparent attempts, whether successful or not, to damage or destroy property, are not permitted or acceptable.
2. This policy applies to any property, whether personal, school, or private.
3. Band members and/or their parent(s) will be financially responsible for costs associated with restoring or replacing damaged or destroyed property.

4. If required, band members who are suspected of violating this policy may be reported to appropriate civil authorities.

C. Using Profanity

1. Always use proper “Ranger Band” language.

XIII. School owned property

A. All property

1. Band members must properly care for school owned property.
2. Band members may be financially responsible to repair or replace school owned property, which is not properly cared for.

B. Instruments and related equipment

1. Students must keep instruments in good repair.
2. If school owned property appears to require repair, notify the director prior to attempting to repair or hire such repair.

C. Uniforms

1. Never wear the uniform to events other than those designated by the director. Always wear the entire uniform with all accessories. Never wear any jewelry (including watches) or make-up or non permanent hair dye while in uniform.
2. You are responsible for the EXACT NUMBERED UNIFORM ITEM that you receive.

XIV. Trips

A. Bands take trips for contests, performances, and Band Camp.

B. Code of Conduct

1. As members of the Rincon/University Bands you will be highly visible, not only as a musical organization, but as representatives of our school, community, and state. That responsibility and opportunity carries with it an obligation to project and maintain the absolute highest moral and musical integrity. Many of those who come into contact with us as we perform and travel will form their opinions of Rincon/University High School based upon the impressions we create, both in close proximity and from a distance. Therefore, the rules of TUSD and individual campus program rules and regulations apply at all times. As in any situation, take the high road.

2. All rules and expectations are set forth to help you enjoy your trips to the fullest and to avoid the embarrassment and inconvenience which momentary lapses in judgment may bring about. It is the goal of the Rincon/University Band Program that upon our return home to R/UHS, you will have acquired an even greater sense of pride as a Ranger Band member and as a TUSD musical ambassador.

3. Punctuality is essential in adhering to our busy trip schedule. Be early for everything and help each other stay organized. When enjoying free time and during sightseeing excursions, always stay in groups of three or more members. This is for your safety. There should not be any deviation.

4. School dress code is required on all trips. When in concert attire, remain in full concert attire. It is unprofessional to have shirttails out, to wear athletic shoes while in formal attire, to chew gum, etc. The loading of equipment may necessitate adjustments to these expectations. Follow the instructions of the chaperone or adult sponsor in charge.

5. While staying in hotels we will share facilities with other student groups and individuals from other schools and programs. Some of these groups and individuals may be unsupervised at times and may engage in behavior that would

violate this Code of Conduct. Do not be influenced nor persuaded to engage in any behavior that is in conflict with the spirit of this Code of Conduct.

6. Members must remain reasonably quiet at all times when in hotel facilities. Curfews will be strictly observed. Any personal needs, which might require leaving your room after curfew, must be arranged in advance with a chaperone or director.

7. Band members are responsible for all their own equipment and person items (triple check for uniform parts, extra reeds, valve oil, mutes, music, etc.) However, we all must share in the logistical responsibilities of the trip. We will all participate as equipment movers, sanitation engineers, stagehands, etc. Please perform the duties asked of you.

8. There will be times when changes to our plans become necessary. Look for solutions to problems and avoid complaining. Concerns should be expressed at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner.

Suggestion: Never complain to anyone who cannot solve your problem.

XV. Uniforms

A. Most marching band and all Wind Ensemble members will be issued a uniform.

B. Members may be required to pay for some parts of their uniform (e.g. t-shirt, shoes, black shorts, black socks, gloves, *Wind Ensemble BOYS: tuxedo shirts*). The director will identify which parts must be purchased and which must be purchased from designated sources.

C. Uniforms are inspected before every performance. Everything must be clean and in good repair. Failure to comply with this policy may lead to being excluded from performing. Only drink water while in uniform.

D. School owned uniforms will be stored at school and may not be taken home.

E. Uniforms damaged by a student will be replaced at the cost of the student (between \$250 and \$300).

F. A Uniform Cleaning Fee will be assessed for Marching and Concert Uniforms

G. Concert Performance Attire:

1. Ladies: T-length (midcalf) black skirt or black slacks (no jeans), long sleeve black blouse, black flats, pumps, or heels.

2. Gentlemen: Long sleeve black dress shirt, black slacks (no jeans), black socks, and black dress shoes.

XVI. Grading New

A. Jazz Band

Listening Logs

1. 5 Jazz albums are reviewed, only 2 are critiqued

2. One PAGE per critique, (12 pt. font, single spaced one inch margins) written in the style of a music critic.

3. Also list what was learned from the piece, how the content can be applied to the listener in improving musicianship, etc.

4. List each album as follows: artist name, name of album, style of music, recording company name and year released.

a. Must be typed, *again*: single space format. **100 points total**

Transcription

1. 4 transcriptions will be composed during the year.

2. The first transcription exercise will be given to the class, the following 3 will be selected by student.

3. Each student is to transcribe their instrument solo and submit for points

4. Transcriptions will be graded on pitch accuracy and rhythmic accuracy

100 Points Total

B. Performance Test

1. Each group will be graded on musical performance/memorization and choreography throughout the year.
2. Performed for the Director or recorded on Smart Music
3. Based on a **100 pt** scale
4. Announced and posted one week before the test

C. Concerts, Festivals

1. Each event will receive **100 pts.**

D. Rehearsals

1. Each out of class rehearsal **50 pts.**
 - a. During *marching season* the 50 points will be equally divided between four areas: 1) Participation, 2) attendance, having and using 3) music AND 4) drill during a rehearsal.
2. Out of class Sectionals **20 pts.**
 - a. This time will be selected by the section leader and section.

E. Games

1. Each football game **50 pts.**
 - a. Students must be actively involved and participating throughout the entire “performance” to receive full credit. This includes but is not limited to cheers, playing stand tunes, sideline routines, and getting the crowd energized about Ranger Football.

F. Special Projects

1. During the spring semester there will be special projects assigned in order to supplement the student’s practice and performance grade.
2. Assignments will be given and assigned a due date during class. Point totals will also be announced at the time of assignment.

G. Blue Forms

1. The director must be notified by blue form 2 weeks prior to the scheduled absence, at that time the director will determine if an alternate assignment will be assigned to make up the missed points.

H. Extra Credit

1. During the semester students may attend concerts and write a 1-2 page paper on the event, per director approval.
2. Students who make All-State and/or South Central U of A Honor Band will receive extra credit.
3. Students who take private lessons will receive extra credit when their private instructor signs the practice record on the last practice record prior to the quarter grades. **(30 points total for the semester)**
4. **15 points** per documented event will be awarded following director approval.

I. Smart Music

1. Students who play brass and woodwind instruments will purchase a Smart Music subscription for student assessment and practice.
2. See the following instructions on how to enroll for Smart Music:
<http://www.smartmusic.com/impact/Setup/Imports/StudentEnrollment.pdf>
3. All students enroll under the **RINCON HIGH SCHOOL** option for school selection.
4. Graded Smart Music assignments will be posted in the IMPACT grade book and on TUSD stats.

Basic Instrument Care

Each student who uses a school-owned instrument must fill out a school instrument use form with the requested information before the instrument can be taken home. It is the responsibility of every student to keep his/her instrument clean and in performance order. Each instrument case **must be labeled** with the student's name and phone number. If a school instrument needs repair, please notify the Director immediately so that he can get it repaired. If damage to a school instrument is due to negligence or vandalism, the student who checked out the instrument will be held responsible.

Woodwinds

Keep the instruments as clean as possible. Avoid exposing the instrument to water. Always swab the inside of the instrument after each use. Keep the corks greased. If the instrument's mechanisms get stuck, a spring breaks, or a pad falls out, bring the instrument to the director so that it can be repaired. All reed instruments will have three (3) reeds in their case for each rehearsal and performance.

Brass

Use the thinnest valve oil you can find and oil the valves often. If the valves stick or become sluggish, take them out and wipe the valve and casing clean with a soft cotton cloth and oil them again. Use a quality slide grease to keep the slides moving. If a slide or mouthpiece becomes stuck, DO NOT force them out. Brass players must have valve and slide oil at all times. Trombone players should have a container of slide grease and a spray water bottle.

Percussion

Percussionists need to have a basic stick bag with mallets and sticks. Please ask the Director if you have any questions about instrument maintenance.

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE HEALTH OF YOUR INSTRUMENT AND AVOID MISHAPS, EACH STUDENT WILL PLAY ONLY THEIR INSTRUMENT UNLESS THE DIRECTOR HAS APPROVED A SWITCH. PERCUSSIONISTS ARE THE ONLY MEMBERS ALLOWED TO PLAY PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS!!

2009-2010 Rincon/University Ranger Bands Parent and Student Handbook Confirmation Form

Please return by **Friday, August 21** to the band room, this form is your first **20 points** in band!

We, the undersigned, have read, understand, and will follow the procedures of the 2009-2010 Rincon/University High School Band program.

Student Name Printed: _____

Marching Band Instrument or Section: _____

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Initial the following if they apply to your student

____ **All Woodwind and Brass players (initial after purchase):** Will purchase Smart Music at <https://www.smartmusic.com/Store/Student.aspx> Each Subscription is \$30.00; additional information on Smart Music subscriptions can be found in the band handbook.

____ I **do not** give permission for pictures of my child to be published on the band web page www.rangerband.org (Checking this means your student will **not** be included on the band web page photos).