



R i v e r s i d e M i d d l e S c h o o l B a n d

Geoffrey Rosché - Director
1095 Fury's Ferry Road, Evans, Ga. 30809
www.rmsband.net geoffrey.rosche@ccboe.net

Welcome to the Riverside Middle School Band!

Your young student is about to begin what will be a life-long appreciation for music. No matter what profession they choose as they enter the work force, it is my goal to provide society with a generation of young people who deeply appreciate music as entertainment, an art form, or as a career.

About Me

I am in my ninth year of teaching here in Columbia County. In addition to my directing duties at Riverside, I also assist at Greenbrier High School with their marching band program. I hold a degree in Music Education from the Mississippi State University as well as a Masters Degree in Instrumental Music Conducting from the American Band College at Southern Oregon University.

A Seven-Year Plan

As most of you know, there are many band activities offered at the high schools: marching bands, jazz bands, concert bands, and various small ensembles. The foundations being built at the middle school level are crucial to the success of a good high school program. In Columbia County your child is offered a unique experience in band where we believe that the development of musical growth in our students should not be segmented into middle school and high school. Rather, one continuous seven-year experience. We are fortunate to have assistance at the middle school from the high school directors during the day. This way, your student will become familiar with the high school director; making the transition from middle school to high school much smoother. Likewise, as a middle school band director, I feel it is as much a part of my job to assist the high schools with their after school activities; further helping to educate my students once they've left the walls of Riverside Middle. Our goal is to provide a seam-less band experience from 6th grade through 12th grade.

Our Goals

First and foremost is to develop within our students an appreciation for music, and the hard work that it takes to make good, quality music. 6th Graders will start with no musical experience and will quickly lay the foundations of proper technique on their new instruments as well as learn to read and comprehend musical notation. 7th Graders will continue to develop their previously learned skills and expand their knowledge with more difficult concepts. 8th Graders will begin to explore a more artistic side of music, preparing them for the challenges that await them the next few years in high school.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) of Beginning Band

What instrument will my child play?

During the first few weeks of school, your child will be learning the basics of reading music and learning about each different band instrument. During this time each student will try out various instruments to determine with which one they will be the most successful. Various instruments demand certain facial/oral characteristics in order to provide the greatest chances for success, a child's interest in a particular instrument may not suit their characteristics that would make them successful on a different instrument. That being said, every effort will be made to take a child's interest into consideration.

Do I need to buy an Instrument yet?

NO. Once I determine which instrument your child will play, there will be a letter sent home with your child detailing our trusted local music stores which offer very reasonable rental options. Renting from our trusted local music stores also provides the added bonus of trustworthy and timely repair services. A musical instrument can be an expensive investment - one most beginners are not ready to respect until daily routines have been established; renting the first year, from our trusted local music stores, is strongly recommended for the quality of instruments and repair services.

Some of the larger, more expensive instruments the school will provide for students to use. However, these students will be responsible for the general maintenance and upkeep of these instruments throughout the year. (More details about this will be given later)

Students selected to play non-school-owned instruments are strongly encouraged to RENT, at least for the first year, from one of our local band instrument dealers. Our local music stores offer very reasonable rental rates, often times crediting your rental payments towards the purchase of a step up instrument later on. It is a far better investment the first year to rent from a music dealer and get the repair service for an instrument that will provide a good starting point for your young musician.

The Investment (7th or 8th Grade)

Just like most things in this world, the more something costs the better it typically performs. When the time comes to look into purchasing an instrument, cost is an important factor. Not all brands of band instruments will provide a good starting point for students. Some local stores (non-music stores) have begun carrying instruments of very poor quality that will severely limit your child's ability to progress with the class. Furthermore, these instruments cannot be repaired – music stores often do not do repair work on instruments they did not sell. Also, the internet is quickly becoming a place to get great deals on instruments – sometimes. Again, a bargain instrument is generally not going to be of sufficient quality to give your child a chance to succeed. If you do find something online that you think is a good bargain, PLEASE email the link or other information to me before you purchase the instrument. I cannot emphasize this enough: before you take a chance on something, PLEASE contact me so I can be of assistance – I promise I won't steer you wrong. I love having successful, happy students in band and I work diligently to ensure that students have every opportunity to have a positive experience with the proper equipment.