

2018 Rancocas Valley Regional High School



Red Devil Marching Band



NEW MEMBER INFORMATION PACKET

Dear Students & Parents,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2018 Rancocas Valley Regional High School **RED DEVIL MARCHING BAND!** The "RVMB" is one of RV's most prominent activities performing for **thousands** of spectators every year, and we are honored to represent our school & community. The Red Devil Marching Band enjoys a proud tradition of excellence and innovation in the marching arts both regionally and nationally. Though a competitive organization that has garnered State and National titles in recent years, the Red Devil Marching Band's goal is to instill the values of teamwork, dedication, responsibility, leadership, self-discipline, building self-esteem, and developing performance skills all with the goal of achieving our full potential as performers and people.

As stated above, through the marching band activity - students become stronger performers, gain more confidence in themselves, learn how to adapt to various situations, build self-esteem, strengthen their belief in others through teamwork, and become all-around better people. The "life skills" you learn here will stay with you for the rest of your life! Our members are a welcoming group of students who are **very** enthusiastic about what they do. That enthusiasm is infectious! We want YOU to be a part of it and experience it for yourself! Not to mention...you will make friendships and memories that will last you a LIFETIME!

The information provided here is to give you a brief but thorough introduction to the Red Devil Marching Band. While we aim to cover a lot, it surely doesn't cover everything. However, please don't be overwhelmed! Our students, instructional staff and parents are always available to answer your questions and help you with anything you need. All you have to do is ask!

You are encouraged to visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/a/rvrhs.com/marching-band/> & www.rvband.com - run by our RV Band Boosters, and "like" us on Facebook (search for "Red Devil Marching Band"). Here you will find a great deal of information about the Red Devil Marching Band. Thank you for your interest and we hope to have you with us this year and for the years to come!

Lawrence Little
Director, Red Devil Marching Band

David B. Britton
Director of Instrumental Music

ABOUT MARCHING BAND

The marching band activity is very diverse. There are many different types of bands – parade, festival, show, competitive, pep, etc... No one type is better or worse than the other. All are different and ALL are very rewarding for its members and entertaining for their audiences! The Red Devil Marching Band is a **competitive** marching band. That means we compete at local, regional, and national marching band competitions. Bands are judged on their performance quality in music, marching, and overall coordination of both. There are criteria that the judges look at and assign scores to. At the end of the night, the band gets a score. At these competitions, bands are classified into ‘group’ sizes based on the number of members. That way, bands of comparable sizes are competitive with one another. Throughout the season, we work on a full-blown field show “production” lasting between 7-8 minutes. Each year we choose a theme or concept.

In addition to the competitions, the Red Devil Marching Band also serves as a pep band for our varsity football teams and fans at all home games. We perform all types of pep music in many styles. Our job is to pump up the team and help the crowd get into the game! This is a very fun time for us where we get to cut loose a little.



THE SECTIONS OF THE BAND

HORNLINE – Woodwinds & Marching Brass. We march the traditional marching wind section – piccolo, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto/tenor/baritone sax, trumpet, mellophone, baritone & tuba. Trombone players play baritone for the field show performances and trombone in the stands at the games. We are fortunate to have talented staff members who work with the RVMB winds to strengthen the fundamentals and lay the foundation for a superior ensemble.



PERCUSSION – The percussion section has two main subsections: the DRUMLINE and the FRONT ENSEMBLE (PIT). The **drumline** is comprised of marching snare drums, tenor drums, bass drums, and cymbals. The **front ensemble**, or “pit”, is made up of our mallet percussion (marimba, vibes, xylophone, etc...), concert percussion and electronics (bass guitar, synthesizer, sampler, etc...). **PIANO EXPERIENCE** is *big plus* if you are planning to join the pit. However, we also take students with no prior experience.



COLOR GUARD – The award-winning RV Color Guard provides the audience with spectacular color, choreography, movement and visual ENERGY! You can easily follow the ‘story’ of the show by watching the color guard. **No experience is required.** All that is required is a great attitude and hard work. The RV Color Guard has enjoyed tremendous success in recent years under the instruction of Kelly Pruden and Kristen Hawkins. The Color Guard was awarded “Best Color Guard” at Nationals in each of the past 3 seasons – earning a PERFECT SCORE in 2011! The basic arsenal of color guard equipment is Flags, Rifles and Sabres. However, it is not out of the ordinary for our guard to use other non-traditional equipment to spin and add visual effects to our performances.



THE MARCHING BAND SEASON AT-A-GLANCE

THE SUMMER

JUNE: During this month, we will have begin our evening full-band rehearsals on 6/14, 6/25, & 6/27, each rehearsal is 6:00pm-9:00pm, covering the essential fundamentals of music performance, color guard technique, and marching basics. During sectional time at these rehearsals, the students get more individualized instruction from the staff. June is the time we begin to establish our “**system for success**”. Warm-ups and music will be distributed to the musicians for practice during the rest of the season.

JULY: While July begins with a bit of time off, rehearsals resume the second full week of the month. Our “standard’ summer schedule will resume with rehearsals on Tuesday & Thursday Evenings (7/10, 7/12, 7/17, 7/19, 7/24, 7/26, & 7/31). Here we will continue covering the basics and some advancing skills. In addition to refining our marching & movement skills, July is also the time we start learning our music for the fall field show and football games. The color guard will continue to develop their skills and begin learning some of the “work” for the field show.



AUGUST: This is a BIG month for us. We’ll begin the month by putting the finishing touches on our music & visual technique packages. Additionally, we will be performing at Lumberton’s National Night Out. From there, we will be hitting the music for the field show full-steam! It is expected that all of our musicians have been preparing on their own so things come together quickly and at a high level. This month also marks the time we start coordinating our music with the

drill & choreography – a VERY exciting time!!! August will consist of evening rehearsals twice a week (8/2, 8/7, 8/9, 8/14, 8/16). All of these rehearsals will be 6pm-9pm. Our **Mini-Camp** (August 21st-23rd) and our annual **Band Camp** (August 25th-29th) at Camp Saginaw in Oxford, PA will bring August to a close. The projected cost for Band Camp will be approximately **\$375 per member**. There will be numerous FUNDRAISERS throughout the summer to help ease the costs in addition to a payment plan to lessen any immediate financial burden. We do expect all of our members to attend camp. The more members we have, the lower the cost will be! See Mr. Little if you need more information or have any questions.

THE FALL

SEPTEMBER: The Red Devil Marching Band will return from Band Camp as a close-knit group with a large chunk of their field show learned and ready with stand music for the football games! September marks the start of our “regular season” rehearsal schedule (2-3 evenings per week & performances on weekends). We will also continue to finish up our production so we can head into the USBands season nearly finished and ready to go! September will also have our first performances of the season – weekly football games and our first few competitions.



OCTOBER: By the time we hit October, the marching band will have built up the momentum from earlier in the season to have many memorable and terrific performances. This is our busiest time of year with rehearsals, football games, competitions, and Homecoming (10/20)! In October, each weekend will have a performance, including the USBands NJ State Championship on October 28th. At this point, we are a well-oiled “machine” running on all cylinders.

NOVEMBER: This is the month we are working toward! Our final championship performance takes place on November 4th at the USBands National Championships at J. Birney Crum Stadium in Allentown, PA! Following the National event, weekly rehearsals will conclude. By this time, the members are able to look back fondly on a great season and the experience of a LIFETIME! The only remaining events are football playoff games, the annual Thanksgiving Game in the evening on Wednesday, 11/21, and any off-season events.



OFF-SEASON: The Off-Season for the Red Devil Marching Band goes from December thru May. During this time, our performance schedule is typically low. We will perform at the Mount Holly Holiday Celebration (12/7), one or two school functions, middle school recruitment performances, and the Lumberton Memorial Day Parade on 5/27/2019. We also host a few Spring Workshops in preparation for the next season.

THE NEW MEMBER EXPERIENCE

Our new members are our future!

At first, the marching band activity can seem overwhelming - the schedule, the expectations, the music, and the “what do I do now?” feeling. However, marching band is a PROCESS that goes step-by-step. We will have a very competent and caring **Student Leadership Team** whose job it is to help new members easily transition into the Red Devil Marching Band world. At one point, they were all new members too! They will be available to answer any of your questions and help you be the best member you can be. We also have a talented instructional staff that will teach everyone HOW to play, march, spin and put it all together. We’ve all been NEW MEMBERS before and remember how it was for us! And of course, we have our band parents who help us with everything from nursing the boo-boos to feeding the group!



The next thing you will learn is that the marching band really is like a FAMILY – one that is very open and excited to have new members on board! In the past, our new members have ranged from first-chair musicians in their middle school band to students with NO musical or performance experience AT ALL...but are eager to work hard and be part of a fun group! All have grown to be great, productive members and terrific people. What starts off difficult eventually becomes easy. What may initially seem impossible becomes possible.

We are very proud to draw from a diverse group of students within the RV community. The average Red Devil Marching Band student manages a pretty heavy academic workload with a number of family, community and scholastic obligations. These students, however, balance these obligations while fulfilling their commitment to the band program by exercising effective time management techniques and strategic planning – all EXTREMELY important *life skills*. Many students are enrolled in Honors and AP courses as well. Remember, the Red Devil Marching Band experience is here to ENRICH YOUR LIFE. Good students never allow band to be an obstacle – they allow it boost them to greater heights and achieve more! That’s what we’re here to do.

THE NEW PARENT EXPERIENCE

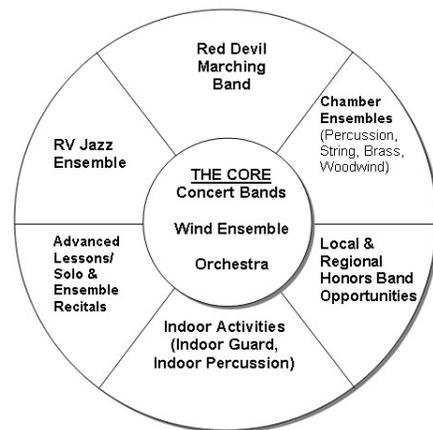
Hopefully by now, you have a sense of what this program is about. There are a number of resources we provide for the fresh, new parents. The director will regularly stay in touch with everyone via weekly mailings covering much of what you need to know. They will be happy to personally answer any of your questions and address your concerns.

In addition, the RV Band Boosters (RVBB) provide helpful information to make the transition in the high school band world an easy one. The RVBB support the program and the students by providing morale, financial, and logistical support...all needed to keep things running as smooth! We encourage all parents to **GET INVOLVED**. Many opportunities for involvement will come throughout the summer. We hope that you take advantage of them!



THE COMPLETE INSTRUMENTAL EXPERIENCE

The Red Devil Marching Band is only **one part** of a comprehensive instrumental music curriculum. Marching Band is not intended to be the **ONLY** band experience for our musicians (or color guard musicians...yes, there are some ☺). Musicians are encouraged to enroll in a **CORE** ensemble since these groups are the core of the RVRHS Instrumental Program. A strong Concert Band/Wind Ensemble always leads to a stronger Marching Band...whereas a strong Marching Band does not always lead to a stronger Concert Band/Wind Ensemble. The concert ensembles — Concert Bands, Wind Ensemble (Honors course) and Orchestra —are the foundation of the RVRHS Instrumental Program. The many extra-curricular ensembles and music classes are offered to supplement the basic concert ensemble experience and musical growth. Scheduling for a concert ensembles is easily arranged with your guidance counselor. Contact the Instrumental Music Director, Mr. Britton, if you have any questions.



FINANCIALS

Unfortunately, Marching Band is not a free activity. There are costs to run a marching band program such as ours. Our school district does cover some of these costs such as supplies and music – and most transportation costs. But other costs - such as some transportation, instructional & design fees, and some equipment transport costs - are covered partially by the Band Boosters and our members through the Marching Band Fee. In addition, there is also Band Camp and uniform incidentals. We urge **EVERYONE** to participate in the **fundraising opportunities** that run through the summer, fall, and the entire school year. Here are the estimated costs, per member, for the 2018 Season. *Please note, these are subject to change and we will be working hard to reduce these amounts when possible.*

• 2018 Band Camp @ Camp Saginaw + Transportation & Equipment Truck (<u>based on # of members</u>)	\$375.00
• *2018-2019 RVRHS Student Activity Fee (<i>free/reduced lunch recipients are exempt</i>)	\$100.00
• Band Shoes (musicians & color guard)	<u>\$35-\$38</u>
ESTIMATED TOTAL	\$513.00

*from 2017-2018 school year – this is NOT EXCLUSIVE to marching band. It is assessed by the school and covers MANY activities, clubs, and sports at RV.

Though it seems daunting, please know a few things. 1.) Band Camp payments will be through installments throughout the summer. 2.) Mr. Little, the RV Band Boosters, Mr. Britton, and administration will be working tirelessly to reduce these costs as much as possible. *Also, the more members we have attend Band Camp, the less each individual has to pay!* The costs above are high estimates so we can prepare for the worst and hope for the best. We are all here to help you! We hope that this does not deter you from participating. Instead, we would appreciate the conversation of “I’d like my child to participate, but it is expensive. What can we do to make it work?” as opposed to ruling it out. PARENTS – again, please **get involved** with fundraising and stay in constant communication!

IN CONCLUSION

We hope this packet answered some questions for you. We’re sure it has raised new ones for you as well! ☺ We would like to welcome you again to the 2018 Red Devil Marching Band. You will be part of a very special program with a very special group of people. Here, you will find a place where you belong and can prosper. If you should have any questions, Mr. Little can be reached at Little@rvrhs.com. Please be sure to visit <https://sites.google.com/a/rvrhs.com/marching-band/> & <http://www.rvband.com/> and check us out on **Facebook** at ‘Red Devil Marching Band’.