

RIDLEY RAIDER MARCHING BAND  
STUDENT HANDBOOK



FALL 2008

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

*Dear Student,*

*Let me take this opportunity to welcome you to the Ridley Raider Marching Band! You have chosen to participate in an organization dedicated to excellence in performance. The Ridley Raider Marching Band plays at all Ridley football games (home and away), and competes in the USSBA Circuit of bands.*

*We have a knowledgeable and dedicated staff to assist you throughout your band career here at Ridley High School. Our student leaders are chosen for their musical and leadership abilities, and are there to help you whenever you need it.*

*This handbook serves as your “operating manual” for band—please read it and absorb the information in it. If you have any questions, my door is always open. You may e-mail or phone me at any time.*

*I'm looking forward to a great season, and I am fantastically excited that you will be a part of it!*

*Go Raiders!*

*Keith Roeckle  
Director of Bands  
Ridley High School  
keith\_roeckle@ridleysd.k12.pa.us  
610-534-1900 x8144*

## PERFORMANCE AND EVENT SCHEDULE – 2008-2009

### FOOTBALL/PARADE SCHEDULE:

<i>8/29/08</i>	<i>Springfield</i>	<i>Away</i>	<i>Report 5:30</i>
<i>9/5/08</i>	<i>Radnor</i>	<i>Away</i>	<i>Report 5:30</i>
<i>9/6/08</i>	<i>Folsom Parade</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Report TBA</i>
<i>9/12/08</i>	<i>Lower Merion</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Report 6:00</i>
<i>9/19/08</i>	<i>Conestoga</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Report 6:00</i>
<i>9/26/08</i>	<i>Upper Darby</i>	<i>Away</i>	<i>Report 5:30</i>
<i>10/3/08</i>	<i>Harriton</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Report 6:00</i>
<i>10/10/08</i>	<i>Penncrest</i>	<i>Away</i>	<i>Report 5:30</i>
<i>10/17/08</i>	<i>Marple Newtown</i>	<i>HOMECOMING</i>	<i>Report 5:30</i>

\*Rain Date 10/18/08

<i>10/24/08</i>	<i>Strath Haven</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Report 5:30</i>
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\*Senior Night

<i>10/31/08</i>	<i>Garnet Valley</i>	<i>Away</i>	<i>Report 5:30</i>
<i>11/7/08</i>	<i>Haverford</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Report 6:00</i>
<i>11/11/08</i>	<i>Veteran's Day Parade</i>	<i>Media</i>	<i>Report TBA</i>
<i>11/27/08</i>	<i>Interboro</i>	<i>???</i>	<i>Report 8:30 A.M.</i>

*11/7/08 PIAA DISTRICT 1 PLAYOFFS*

*11/14/08 Times and Places TBD*

*11/21/08*

*11/28/08*

*\*\*PIAA STATE FINALS – 12/5/08, 12/12/08, 12/19/08*

### USSBA COMPETITION SCHEDULE:

\*\*\*ALL REPORT TIMES TBA—ASSUME A NOON REHEARSAL CALL TIME FOLLOWED BY A COMPETITION AT NIGHT, BUT THAT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

<i>9/13/08</i>	<i>North Penn</i>	North Penn High School, Lansdale, PA
<i>9/27/08</i>	<i>Ridley (HOME)</i>	
<i>10/4/08</i>	<i>Del. Valley Regionals</i>	Upper Darby High School, Drexel Hill, PA
<i>10/11/08</i>	<i>Abington</i>	Abington Senior High School, Abington, PA
<i>10/25/08</i>	<i>Upper Moreland</i>	Upper Moreland High School, Willow Grove, PA
<i>11/2/08</i>	<i>Northern States Championships</i>	<i>Time/Place TBA</i>

## REHEARSAL SCHEDULE – SUMMER/FALL 2008

May 28 – 6:30-8:30	Incoming Freshman Night	9 <sup>th</sup> Graders/Section Leaders
May 29 – 6:30-8:30	First Entire Group Practice	Entire Group
June 4 – 6:30-8:30	Practice	Entire Group
June 5 – 6:30-8:30	Practice	Entire Group
June 12 – 6:30-8:30	Practice	Entire Group
June 19 – 6:30-8:30	Practice	Entire Group
June 26 – 6:30-8:30	Practice	Entire Group
<i>*No practice the week of July 4<sup>th</sup></i>		
July 9 – 6:30-8:30	Practice	Entire Group
July 16 – 6:30-8:30	Practice	Drumline/Pit Only
July 17 – 6:30-8:30	Practice	Entire Group
July 23 – 6:30-8:30	Practice	Drumline/Pit Only
July 24 – 6:30-8:30	Practice	Entire Group
July 30 – 6:30-8:30	Practice	Entire Group
July 31 – 6:30-8:30	Practice	Entire Group
August 6 – 6:30-8:30	Practice	Entire Group
August 7 – 6:30-8:30	Practice	Entire Group
August 12-14	MINI CAMP (See Below)	
August 17-21	BAND CAMP (See Below)	
August 27 – 6:30-9:00	Practice	Entire Group
August 28 – 6:30-9:00	Practice	Entire Group

MINI CAMP – August 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> (at Ridley High School)  
9:00-12:00, *AND* 6:00-9:00 – Lunch NOT Provided

BAND CAMP – August 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> (at Ridley High School)  
9:00-3:00, *AND* 6:00-9:00 – Lunch Provided

\*Modified Schedule on August 21<sup>st</sup>—Band Banquet / Parent Preview Show

*PARENT PREVIEW SHOW: August 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 at Phil Marion Field*

\*During the school year, the band will rehearse Wednesday and Thursday nights from 6:30-9:00.

***PLEASE CHECK MR. ROECKLE’S E-BOARD OFTEN  
FOR UPDATES AND CHANGES!***

If you have any questions or conflicts, please contact Mr. Roeckle at [keith\\_roeckle@ridleysd.k12.pa.us](mailto:keith_roeckle@ridleysd.k12.pa.us) or call the Band Office at 610-534-1900 x8144.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this handbook is to inform, to educate, and to set the guidelines for your membership as a student in this organization. It is your responsibility to read, understand and abide by the rules of the organization. If a student fails to adhere to the rules, he or she may be pulled from a competition or suspended from other performances depending on the severity of the infraction. The Ridley Raider Marching Band is a proud organization that upholds a tradition of excellence. Our goal is to maintain a high standard of performance excellence through a consistent work ethic and dedication. The Ridley Raider Band accepts anyone who has a positive, cooperative attitude. We want people who want to learn and will strive for excellence!

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## **BAND STAFF**

The staff at the high school is comprised of individuals who have a great deal of experience in various areas of the marching band idiom. The staff is composed of our director Mr. Roeckle, and assistants that create, write, design, organize and teach the show. Each staff instructor oversees his/her own area of specialty as well as offer suggestions to students in other sections of the band. ALL BAND STAFF ASSIST IN THE TEACHING AND CLEANING OF DRILL. The students will respect the decisions made by any of the staff members at any time. If the director is not present, a staff person will be instructed to run rehearsal. Cooperation of all members is expected.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The band relies on student leaders to function smoothly and efficiently. Student leadership is comprised of drum majors, color guard captains, and section leaders for each instrument. These students are part of the band leadership and are to be listened to as if the director were giving instructions. These students are permitted to correct mistakes in drill and in music. Frequently, these students will run sectional rehearsals. It is their responsibility to assist you in becoming a better performer. It is your responsibility to respect your peers, student leaders, staff instructors and chaperones.

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## RAMP

Ridley Association of Music Parents is a voluntary organization that assists the director with the numerous details that arise throughout the school year. These parents offer their time to:

- Chaperone
- Sew flags and guard uniforms (designed by the staff)
- Organize fundraisers
- Oversee fitting and other band uniform issues
- Assist set-up at competitions
- Publicize performances
- Organize necessary paperwork - (band camp forms)
- Medically treat injuries - (certified medical personnel)
- Relay current messages that concern events – (phone/e-mail chain)
- *Cheer loudly at performances!*

RAMP is headed by an executive board of elected parents which is run by a band president. These parents discuss seasonal issues regarding financial concerns, fundraisers, special events, and help support the staff and students. The parents are here to support the organization. They deserve your respect and cooperation.

# GENERAL STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

*It is **YOUR** band and no one else's!*

## ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY

- When you are unable to attend practice or a performance, notify Mr. Roeckle by *phone or e-mail* and give the *reason* for absence.
- Weddings, funerals, and religious events are excused events, **but you must still notify Mr. Roeckle.**
- Three (3) unexcused absences will result in a personal meeting with the band director.
- Four (4) unexcused absences may result in a meeting with your parent/guardian.
- Absences from nightly practices may result in disqualification of participation in games and competitions.
- Be on time for practices and performances. Mr. Roeckle will do his best to start on time and end on time. (See page 4 for the fall practice schedule.)
- **Attendance at all football games, competitions, and parades is mandatory. (See page 3 for the fall schedule of events.)**
- Any student missing the last practice before any competition may be pulled from the performance.
- Missing a Friday night football game or unruly behavior at a game may result in your being pulled from a Saturday competition.

## BEHAVIOR

*Remember, as always, common sense and manners will keep you in good standing!*

- Disrespectful incidents will result in a meeting with the band director and parent/guardian if necessary—the school disciplinarian will handle extreme issues.
- All school rules apply at ALL EVENTS—all rehearsals, performances and other events. Your conduct will be exemplary in all places.
- When wearing a uniform you represent the school, the community, the band, your director and yourself.
- **Respect and cooperation** with the staff, parents, and peers is a rule at all times.

## INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

- Equipment handling is *your* responsibility - *not the responsibility of staff or parents*.
- Uniforms are *your* responsibility - each uniform costs in excess of \$500, and is *your* responsibility to keep it in good condition. The cleaning of the uniform is our expense - negligence is *your* expense.
- School instruments and equipment need to be handled with care - necessary repairs are our expense - negligence is *your* expense - this rule also extends to percussion and guard.
- Each student will be given a locker with a lock (some students will be asked to share with friends or other people performing on the same instrument). Lock your instruments and personal belongings in the lockers—they are there for your protection! Instruments not locked up will result in disciplinary action. **STUDENTS WHO DO NOT LOCK UP SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE SCHOOL INSTRUMENT POLICY** (see below).

## SCHOOL INSTRUMENT POLICY

Ridley High School offers school-owned instruments for some students involved in the band at no cost to the student. Students are only to use the instrument that is assigned to them, and must adhere to the following policies at all times:

- Instruments will be checked out the first week of rehearsals. Students will complete the “Instrument Sign-Out/Responsibility Form”.
- Instrument check-in (and inspection) will happen after the season is over.
- Damages happen, even when given the best care. As soon as a student has difficulty with a school instrument, report it to the band director before it becomes a major problem. Students are not responsible for maintenance that falls under the category of normal wear and tear, i.e. an unglued pad or a *small* ding. **Major repairs that result from misuse or lack of care on the part of the student will be the financial responsibility of the student.**
- All school instruments are to be kept locked in assigned lockers (or taken home) when not in use.
- *All of these policies apply to percussionists.*

## PRACTICE

Practice will be held from 6:30 - 9:00 two times a week. Other ensemble rehearsals may be held in addition to the two rehearsals (i.e., drumline, guard, horn line sectionals - at the direction of a staff member and band director).

### PRACTICE RULES

- Be on time, end of story. Times are when practice **begins**, NOT when you start thinking about getting your instrument and equipment ready.
- Ask appropriate *group-related* questions at appropriate times. Mr. Roeckle and the staff cannot answer every question the moment you think of it, so please be patient. You may ask Mr. Roeckle questions of an individual nature after rehearsal.
- Correct your own mistakes, not the person's next to you.
- Section leaders and staff correct drill and music mistakes—not everyone. If you are told to move or fix something, do it. “But I’m in the right spot” does not fly if you are completely out of the form—the cardinal rule is to guide the form.
- If an emergency arises, immediately notify the director or nearest staff person.
- All aspects of the rehearsal are important - warm ups, exercises, marching, music, spinning, or whatever pertains to your responsibility must be attended.
- No gum chewing!
- Appropriate footwear must be worn. Sneakers or shoes with a soft rubber soul are acceptable - **no sandals, flip-flops, clogs, boots, cleats, or high-heeled shoes**. This includes non-marching students, as well.
- If hats or other accessory garments are affecting the ability of one to perform, a student may be asked to remove the garment until the end of practice.
- Do not bombard staff members at the beginning of practice with "where do I go?" advice until we have made that decision.
- If you must leave early, notify the director at the **beginning** of the rehearsal.
- **Help** others carry equipment - It is not the responsibility of RAMP or the *staff*.

- STUDENTS IN THE PIT—assume your report time to be 20 minutes before the call time for practices in order to get your equipment out and ready. *If practice starts at 6:50, YOU ARE LATE AT 6:11!!!*
- Missed practices means missed chances and missed information that may result in disqualification in that weekend's competition.
- Show up with a positive attitude. Try your best to leave “excess baggage” at the band room door—the great thing about music and band is that we can forget about everything else for a few hours and come together to perform and do an activity we all love!

### CLOTHING/WEATHER

Heat -

- light clothing - no bare feet
- use sun block
- you may bring water to practice - several breaks will be given in the extreme heat

Cold -

- wear jackets and coats if necessary
- scarves and gloves may be worn in cold and windy weather

Use common sense and *watch the forecast*. Don't be surprised when you are asked to go outside in foul weather—this is an outdoor activity!

\*\*School policy dictates that if the school is closed for severe weather, all night events (performances, practices, etc.) are cancelled. Watch the Ridley channel for updates.

### MUSIC

- All music for football and competition performances will be memorized.
- All students will be issued a flip folder for use in the stands. Lyres are not provided. Remove your lyre when getting ready to perform on the field. Our stand music book is extensive—**this is a required piece of equipment at all football games**. The staff WILL check to see that everyone brings their folder.
- Music will be handed out at the beginning of the season, and it is your responsibility to keep track of it!

## **TRANSPORTATION**

All transportation, excluding USSBA Finals, is provided by the school district. Therefore, all student personnel will ride the bus to games and competitions. If a student is being picked up from a game or competition, a signed letter or a personal contact by the parent must be made that evening.

Head set radios are allowable. Any boom box radios will have their sound regulated by a chaperone. A student may lose his/her right to listen to a radio if he/she does not cooperate.

Bus lists will be posted on the band room door. Ride your assigned bus, and do not "switch" with others.

All students must stay seated for the duration of the ride and listen to the chaperones at all times.

## **FUND RAISING**

Periodically, fundraisers will be run at the high school for your individual benefit. All monies raised will go into a personalized account. Many students raise hundreds of dollars through candy, coupon, fruit, pizza, patrons, plant, sales, etc. Realize that each student is responsible for a fee (determined annually) for participating in marching band. This fee covers the cost of band camp, staff salaries, and other general expenditures. In addition, we take one major trip every other year! This will require students to raise additional money if they are planning to participate in the trip. We are committed as an organization to help the needs of the students and will aim at minimizing the costs of any student expenditures possible.

All fundraising materials will be available on the wall of the music suite (just above the water fountains).

# PERFORMANCES

## FOOTBALL GAMES

Only band personnel are permitted to sit in the stands. Band personnel consists of band students, staff, and RAMP chaperones. All others will be asked to leave. While in the stands you will be instructed when to play. ***You are not permitted to play unless you are told by a drum major or Mr. Roeckle!*** We will play many times during a football game. If you are asked more than twice to stop playing, your instrument will be taken until the end of the game.

You are there to support the football team. Cheer, boo, and enjoy the game. ***Cell phone use is not permitted in the stands.*** The third quarter is your free time to relax – ***Remember, you are still in uniform and representing the Ridley Raider Band.*** You are due back in your seat when there is 1:00 remaining on the game clock in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. If students are late returning to the stands, the third quarter privilege will be taken away. If you want refreshments, the following rules apply: ***Clear Drinks Only! (i.e., 7-Up, water), No Mustard, Ketchup, Relish, or Tomato Sauce while in uniform.***

## COMPETITIONS

After we are done performing, you will be able to change into street clothes and return to the stadium to watch the other bands IF THERE IS TIME BEFORE AWARDS. You may get something to eat and sit on the opposite side in your designated section. Do not wander away from the stadium or return to the busses early. You are there to represent the Ridley Raider Band and support the other bands on the field. Your conduct is being watched at all times—not only by RAMP, staff, or Mr. Roeckle, but also by the other bands and their directors.

## SPECIAL MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Due to the large number of people participating in the Ridley Raider Marching Band and the large number of students at Ridley High School, there are some medical considerations that must be adhered to:

1. ***NO PEANUT PRODUCTS*** ARE ALLOWED AT REHEARSALS, ON THE BUSSES, AT COMPETITIONS, OR IN THE REHEARSAL AREAS.
  
2. NO LATEX PRODUCTS ARE ALLOWED AT REHEARSALS, ON THE BUSSES, AT COMPETITIONS, OR IN THE REHEARSAL AREAS. ***THIS INCLUDES BALLOONS THAT ARE NOT MYLAR!***

# HANDBOOK CONTRACT

I have read and understand the policies and guidelines set forth in the STUDENT HANDBOOK.

*Please sign and return this form to Mr. Roeckle by August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008.*

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN: \_\_\_\_\_