

# **Robbinsville High School Raven Regiment Handbook 2015-2016 Edition**



We are the Raven Regiment  
Strong, and brave and true,  
Pride, Honor and Respect  
Our virtues for all to view.

With one goal we are united  
And bound to each other,  
Dedicated to the cause  
We pledge to one another.

The Regiment is in our hearts  
This scarlet "R" a token  
Our undying loyalty ensures  
Its ranks will never be broken

We are the Raven Regiment!

## **I. Requirements**

Each student must possess:

1. a genuine love of music
2. a basic knowledge of music fundamentals
3. a willingness to work
4. a strong desire to perform, accompanied by a competitive spirit
5. self-control
6. the ability to contribute as an individual for the betterment of the group

## **II. Attitude**

The term "band member" refers to all members of the organization. This includes:

Musicians  
Color Guard  
Drum Majors  
Runners

The marching band is a musical ensemble. The meaning of the word ensemble is derived from the French word for "together"; this meaning should be carried in mind always. Unlike a soloist who strives to achieve musical ends alone, an ensemble must strive to reach the same musical goals with a number of people working as one. It must be understood that students in band are bound by a different relationship to each other than that existing in other courses: one band member's work is totally dependent on the work of every other band member. The purpose of the band is musical. The function of the band member is to perform and march, and it should be well understood **that the quality with which one executes his function affects every other band member.** Band members should have respect for their fellow band members; the meaning of this is best expressed by honestly trying to make your own performance as good as you possibly can. Band members should remember that humility is a virtue. Criticism should be received gratefully and band members should try to help each other.

## **III. Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. Schedules of events will be distributed as much in advance as possible. No **unexcused** absences will be tolerated. Absences will be excused for illness, emergency circumstances and/or religious reasons (i.e. attendance at a wedding, funeral, or obligatory religious holiday) only.

**If an absence or tardiness is to be excused, the circumstances surrounding the incident must be privately discussed with the director or color guard director either before or after rehearsal.** Courtesy would dictate the necessity of reporting the expected absence or tardiness in advance. It is the responsibility of the student to discuss unexpected absences or tardiness with the director immediately upon return to the band following the absences.

*“... and twists your mind.”*

If a band member has an unexcused absence, it is required that the member makes up for the time missed. Therefore if a member misses a three hour rehearsal it is required that the member make the three hours up in service to the organization before the next performance. If the time is not made up additional consequences will follow ranging from the loss of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter free time to the loss of a letter or service bar, until the time is made up.

Additionally, attendance at parades is also considered mandatory. Parades are an important part of the Raven Regiment experience. As a parade participant, we act as an ambassador of Robbinsville Township and the Robbinsville Public School District. Keeping this in mind, attendance at all parades is mandatory unless a doctor's note can be presented to the director at the practice following the parade. Penalties for missing a parade may include the withholding of a letter, bar, or ability to go on a trip later in the year.

#### **IV. Instruments**

Each band member is responsible for his / her own instrument at all times! Each student is expected to keep their instrument in good playing condition and must furnish their own reeds, oils, creams, lyres, etc. All instruments must be cleaned and polished before all performances. Each student is responsible for making sure that his / her instrument is loaded onto the equipment bus for all performances! **DO NOT** depend on someone else to load your equipment!

Similarly, your sheet music will be provided by the school. It is your responsibility to take care of and keep track of your sheet music.

The school will provide percussion instruments, basses, and some of the larger instruments (although you may be more comfortable using your own). School instruments must be treated as if they are your own and you will be held responsible for any damage incurred. There will be a sign-out procedure for school-owned equipment.

All percussionists (including pit musicians) will be assigned equipment and will be held responsible for their equipment **at all times**.

Instruments are not to be given to other students or played by other students at any time for any reason.

All school instruments must be returned at a date specified by Mr. Wilson in June and will be reassigned to undergraduate students the following week.

## V. Uniforms

Uniforms are to be kept clean and pressed at all times. Any student whose uniform is not in satisfactory condition will not be allowed to perform. Warm clothing may be worn under the uniform if necessary.

Since the uniform can easily identify you as a member of the school band program, it must be worn only at authorized appearances, and it must be worn properly. When it is worn, it must be worn in its entirety at all times except for the helmet. Exceptions to this rule will be at the director's discretion.

### **Musician Responsibilities:**

1. Black (plain) tee-shirt or band tee-shirt
2. Black socks (full length, not ankle socks)
3. Black marching shoes (these are specialized shoes and can be purchased through Mr. Wilson)

### **Color Guard Responsibilities:**

1. Marching shoes (as directed by your advisor)
2. Undergarments (i.e. body suit, as directed by your advisor)
3. Leather gloves (as directed by your advisor)

Please memorize your uniform / helmet number, these items are your responsibility.

If you lose any of the uniform parts you must pay for the replacements. Each uniform is **extremely** expensive to replace! You will have to pay the current replacement price for each uniform piece you lose.

Students need to be prepared for hot and cold weather (no matter what the weather forecast is). All students are requested to bring a **small** athletic bag with them to all performances. The following items should be included in the bag:

1. shorts
2. tee-shirt
3. sweats
4. jacket/sweatshirt
5. extra black socks
6. snacks/money for concessions

*“Breathing gym gets you great abs!”*

## **VI. Part, Position, and Section Assignments**

Part, position, and section assignments are the director's decision and are constantly subject to change. Changes thought to be in the best interest of the ensemble will be made throughout the school year. Balanced instrumentation is an extremely important factor with regard to festival participation.

Any student who is not capable of marching their dot and/or performing their music will not be permitted to perform; however, they may be given other responsibilities.

## **VII. Conduct**

Because of the many contacts a band member makes while performing in public, he/she must act as a "goodwill ambassador" from Robbinsville High School. It is simply requested that each band member act like a lady or gentleman at all times. Loud or boisterous behavior is discouraged. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated ever and will result in automatic suspension from the band program.

The district drug and alcohol policy is in affect.

No gum chewing.

No rude or disrespectful behavior toward other bands will be tolerated.

Students are expected to respect each other, each other's instrument/equipment, and personal belongings.

All school rules and policies are in effect at all times.

## **VIII. General Rules and Regulations**

1. All marching band music **must** be memorized!
2. Any student not knowing their music or routines will not be permitted to perform.
3. All students must have their drill sheets and dot books with them at all times!
4. Any drum major or captain missing a performance for reasons other than sickness or emergency circumstances will be removed from their position.
5. No parents, friends, relatives, etc. will be permitted in the band or choral rooms prior to or after any performances. The only adults permitted in these rooms will be those **designated** as crewmembers, or chaperones.

This regulation may seem a bit stern, but it is extremely difficult to monitor two rooms of students preparing for a performance when there are strange faces in the rooms. The staff is responsible for students, clothing, equipment, personal belongings, and leaving on time.

## *Band muffins*

When the band returns from a performance there will always be a brief meeting for all students and staff only, then dismissal as quick as possible. All parents, relatives, and friends are asked to wait for band members outside of the band room.

6. All students must leave and return with the band for all performances. Any parent wanting their child to leave a performance with them and not return to the school with the band must discuss this with the director personally, have a written note stating that they are taking their child with them, and must be present at the time the child is to be dismissed.
7. During football games all band personnel **must** sit with their respective sections. **No outsiders are permitted to sit within the band ranks.** During all football games all band personnel are permitted to leave the stands during the **third quarter only.** Any student not returning to the stands before there are **2 minutes left in the third quarter** will be grounded to the stands for the next football game. No food or drink aside from water is permitted in the stands.
8. All long hair must be put up under helmets.
9. **When school is in session, rehearsals are held each Monday and Wednesday from 6-9pm. All musical equipment must be set up by 6:00pm, and all students must be on the field in their block position by 6:00pm.** Rehearsal begins at 6:00pm -this means that you should be at the school by 5:45pm in order to be prepared for rehearsal.

## **IX. Band Camp**

Band Camp is an extremely important part of the band program, due to the amount of time required to teach an intensive field show to a large number of students. Students need to learn music, marching fundamentals, and a 2000 count drill. Once school begins there is not enough time to teach this volume of material.

Any student missing a week or more of band camp will automatically hold a position as runner until a position within their own section becomes available.

Band Camp will be held at the school during the second and third week of August from Monday – Friday, **RAIN or SHINE.** Times will be announced and posted on the band website.

All students should:

1. dress comfortably (in good taste, i.e. no swim suits. Shirts and shorts/pants must be worn at all times!)
2. wear sneakers and socks! (sandals and flip-flops are not acceptable)
3. bring lunch/dinner (nobody is permitted to leave the school grounds for food)
4. bring sun screen
5. bring instruments, music, and lyres
6. bring pencils
7. bring a towel (for sitting on)
8. bring a small bar of soap (for marking dots)
9. bring water, the only acceptable food or beverage on the practice field
10. bring a hat or other head covering.

## **X. Leadership**

### **1. Drum Major**

The Drum Major(s) are the senior student leaders on the field. They are chosen through an audition process. They have the following responsibilities:

- a. Top of the phone chain
- b. Make sure that rehearsal begins on time with everyone present and prepared
- c. In charge of stretching and physical warm-ups
- d. Will assist in teaching "basics" as directed by the staff
- e. Conducting on the field and in the stands
- f. Making sure that all equipment is cared for and replaced where it belongs.
- g. Assembling field cleanup and setup crews
- h. Uniform inspections before every performance
- i. Have their "count" sheet with them at all times
- j. Assist staff in setting drill
- k. Assist staff in horn warm-ups
- l. Other duties as assigned by staff

### **2. Color Guard Captains**

The Color Guard Captains are chosen through an audition process. They have the following responsibilities:

- a. Act as liaison for members to staff and staff to members
- b. Be informed of and involved in all marching band related functions/activities
- c. Work to create a unified and cohesive color guard
- d. Take initiative to provide additional support and motivation to all members
- e. Work hand in hand with and fully support all student leaders and staff
- f. **BE A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL:** respect other members, be cooperative, intense, self-motivated, focused, and get to know each member individually

### **3. Section Captain**

A Section Captain is chosen through an audition process. They have the following responsibilities:

- a. Act as a liaison for members to staff and staff to members
- b. Be informed of and involved in all marching band-related functions/activities
- c. Work to create a unified Section
- d. Take charge of Section warm-ups at rehearsals and performances
- e. Run sectionals as needed
- f. **BE A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL**

**XI. Website**

The official website of the Raven Regiment is **[www.ravenregiment.org](http://www.ravenregiment.org)**. **Starting in September** it will always contain the most up-to-date information, including (but not limited to) performance times, reporting times, estimated return times to Robbinsville High School, schedule changes, and directions to football and competition sites. Additionally, if a performance is changed or postponed due to weather or other circumstances, it will be posted as soon as the information is received. It is the responsibility of each band member to check the website before reporting to the school in case of last-minute changes.

**Twitter Feed** – [www.twitter.com/ravenregiment](https://www.twitter.com/ravenregiment) The twitter feed will have the most up to date information regarding schedule changes / cancelations / scores and other information.

**XII. Our motto:**

**"TO BE ON TIME IS TO BE LATE, TO BE EARLY IS TO BE ON TIME!"**

**Please fill out the membership form found on my teacher webpage and**

Please return the enclosed commitment form by Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> , to:

Mr. Birch Wilson  
Robbinsville High School  
155 Robbinsville-Edinburg Rd.  
Robbinsville, NJ 08691

**Money for Band Shoes (\$40.00) will be collected at band camp.**



## **Leadership Position Auditions:**

Leadership Classes will be on the following days: Friday May 2, Monday May 5, and Wednesday May 7. While attendance is not mandatory, you will be at a disadvantage in the audition process by not attending.

**Auditions will be on Thursday May 8 starting at 6pm.**

## **Band Camp Schedule**

Band Camp will be held during the second and third weeks of August at RHS. The first week will have the different sections of the band (brass, woodwinds, percussion, and guard) working separately. During the second week, everyone will be outside learning drill for the 2015 show.

**Lunch will be a half hour from 12-12:30 for everyone.**

Monday August 17<sup>th</sup> –Friday August 21<sup>st</sup>

Brass 9:00am-3:00pm

Woodwinds 9:00am-3:00pm

Percussion 9am-3:00pm

Guard 9am-3:00pm (times for guard are tentative, awaiting confirmation from Ms. Erin)

## **Week Two, Full Regiment**

Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> through Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>

Everyone 9:00am-5:00pm

**Lunch will be 1 (one) hour from 12pm-1pm.**

## **Practice Schedule**

Band practice is every Monday and Wednesday evening from 6pm-9pm, with the exception of Labor Day (Monday Sept. 1st ). These practices begin the week immediately following band camp!