



Welcome to Rampart Instrumental Music

2017-2018 INFORMATION NIGHT

An Overview of Our Program

- ▶ The Rampart Instrumental Music Program is the encompassing organization for all curricular and extracurricular instrumental music programs at Rampart High School. The program is also the parent organization for our award winning color guard.
 - ▶ We are proud to offer a well rounded approach to music education that is student focused and involves the input of both students and parents.
- ▶ Classes offered:
 - ▶ Concert Band - Symphonic Band - Wind Ensemble – Percussion Techniques
 - Jazz Ensemble – Advanced Jazz Ensemble – Orchestra
 - Music Theory - Music Appreciation – Guitar Class
- ▶ Extracurricular offerings:
 - ▶ The Rampart Regiment Marching Band – Color Guard – Winter Guard
 - Winter Percussion – Pep Band – Pit Orchestra for the Spring Musical

The Cornerstone of the Rampart Instrumental Music Program

- ▶ The foundation of any successful high school music program is firmly rooted in the concert bands. We are fortunate to offer three tiers of concert band at Rampart, and students can find success and enjoyment at any level.
 - ▶ Concert Band – Open to any student at RHS. No audition necessary, but chair placements are done throughout the year. Students perform at all concert band performances at RHS as well as the CHSAA Band Festival in April. We strive to introduce students to a variety of music, as well as build on fundamental skills specific to their instrument throughout the year.
 - ▶ Symphonic Band – Auditioned ensemble. Symphonic Band students are exposed to a higher grade difficulty of music while simultaneously continuing to build upon fundamental and intermediate skill sets. Students perform at all concert band performances at RHS as well as the Colorado Bandmasters Association State Qualifying Regional (and have qualified for State in the past).
 - ▶ Wind Ensemble – Auditioned ensemble. Wind Ensemble students are expected to perform at an advanced level of proficiency on their individual instruments as well as demonstrate a desire to practice and perform advanced concert band music. It is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED that students in this ensemble seek private instruction with a local professional. Students perform at all RHS concert band performances as well as the Colorado Bandmasters Association State Qualifying Regional.

Concert Band Auditions At-A-Glance

- ▶ Students have had access to online audition materials and hard copies for how to access google classroom have been distributed at Mountain Ridge Middle School for all 8th graders.
 - ▶ Log in to Google Classroom using your ASD20 student ID.
 - ▶ Type in the following class code to “join” and access materials.

▶ **m1ukeb**

- ▶ Class codes are case sensitive.
 - ▶ If you run into issues, please email the directors.
- ▶ Auditions for concert bands are Due on March 8th by 5:00PM.

Percussion Techniques

- ▶ One of the most difficult factors of being a percussionist in a high school music program is that students are often relegated to the back of the rehearsal hall, waiting patiently to play, and just when they get to that all important cymbal crash the director cuts off and wants to hear the flutes play again!
 - ▶ In all seriousness – percussionists often get the short end of the stick when it comes to music education in most high school programs. We are incredibly fortunate to offer a class that focuses on all things percussion related.
 - ▶ We are also fortunate in that we have a full time percussion instructor who coaches each class period on a variety of topics – from world percussion, mallets, rudimental technique, to drum-set, concert percussion, percussion ensemble and more.
- ▶ Percussion techniques is for all percussionists at RHS. They meet in a separate class from the concert bands, but perform on each concert cycle and at CBA and CHSAA festivals throughout the year. This sometimes requires extra rehearsal time outside of class.
- ▶ Students are responsible for the purchase of their own basic equipment – drum sticks, mallets, and a high quality drum pad are required.
- ▶ Students must have been enrolled in band as an eighth grade percussionist to meet the prerequisite for this course. Students wishing to join percussion techniques that have played a different instrument in band are welcome to do so while concurrently enrolled in a concert band on their original instrument or with director approval.

Jazz Ensembles at Rampart High School

- ▶ We currently offer two levels of jazz ensemble at RHS. Both groups are audition only, and instrumentation is limited to a traditional big band set-up. Due to the increased number of auditions for the 2017-2018 school year, preference will be given to students who can dual enroll in a concert ensemble. If a student only auditions for jazz ensemble and does not make it into one of the two groups, they will automatically be placed in concert band.
 - ▶ Jazz Ensemble 1 - Auditioned ensemble. Jazz Ensemble students are exposed to a variety of styles and an intermediate grade difficulty of music while simultaneously continuing to build upon fundamental skill sets. Students are expected to be proficient on their instruments and demonstrate a high level of music theory proficiency and technique.
 - ▶ Advanced Jazz Ensemble – Auditioned ensemble. Advanced Jazz Ensemble students are expected to demonstrate an advanced skill set on both their instrument, and in a music theory background. It is highly encouraged that students in this ensemble are studying privately with a teacher that has a background in jazz performance.
- ▶ Both bands perform at RHS jazz concerts as well as additional performances outside of the school. Both bands participate in a minimum of one jazz festival a year, and we are always looking for new opportunities to perform for the community.

Jazz Band Auditions At-A-Glance

- ▶ Students have had access to online audition materials and hard copies for how to access google classroom have been distributed at Mountain Ridge Middle School for all 8th graders.
 - ▶ Log in to Google Classroom using your ASD20 student ID.
 - ▶ Type in the following class code to “join” and access materials.

▶ r7cq13j

- ▶ Class codes are case sensitive.
 - ▶ If you run into issues, please email the directors.
- ▶ Auditions for jazz bands are Due on March 12th by 5:00PM.

Rampart High School Concert Orchestra

- ▶ One aspect of the Rampart Instrumental Music program that makes us unique is our concert orchestra program. We are proud to offer a curricular class for string students in addition to our band classes.
 - ▶ Open to any student with prior string background at RHS. This class is also open to students who may be new to a string instrument, but have prior instrumental music backgrounds. However, it is strongly encouraged that beginner string students are also studying privately with a teacher. This ensures that even new members have the opportunity to thrive in rehearsals and performances. It is still possible to join the RHS Orchestra as a beginning string player, but students must have the dedication to develop a proficiency on their instrument.
 - ▶ The Rampart High School Concert Orchestra performs at all RHS band concerts, as well as the CHSAA Large Ensemble Festival each year.

Beginning Guitar and Intermediate Guitar Classes

- ▶ Both the beginning and intermediate guitar classes are designed for students who have an interest in learning to play the guitar. Students must own their own acoustic guitar and case.
 - ▶ Beginning guitar is a one semester class that meets during the fall of each school year. Students who have been studying privately or have more than one year experience with music theory, notation, and performing may be more suited to the second semester guitar class.
 - ▶ Intermediate guitar is a one semester class that meets during second semester of each school year. Students who have not taken beginning guitar should communicate with Mr. Acuncius about their intent to take intermediate guitar. A knowledge of basic chords, note and rhythm reading, as well as performance experience are good indicators that a student will be successful entering intermediate guitar without first taking beginning guitar.

Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Performance Groups

- ▶ Basketball Pep Band – The “Ram Band” is made up of students from ALL of the Concert and Jazz Bands at RHS. We routinely pack the gymnasium at girls and boys varsity basketball games and rock the house! There are a number of mandatory performances that each student must fulfill throughout the basketball season.
- ▶ Rampart High School Winter Percussion Ensemble – An extra-curricular group made up of any students wishing to perform in a competitive “sport of the arts”. We usually begin in December and the season concludes at State Championships in April.
- ▶ Rampart High School Winter Guard – An extra-curricular group made up of any student wishing to utilize skills involving dance, flag, and rifle work. This group has been a consistent state finalist, and has over eight state championships in the past 16 years.
- ▶ Rampart High School Marching Band – The “Rampart Regiment” is one of the premier marching ensembles in the state of Colorado. Since 1998, the marching band has been a state finalist 18 of the past 19 years, with two state championships. The marching band is also one of only TWO programs in the state to have been named a Grand Nationals Semi-Finalist.

The Rampart Regiment

- ▶ One further aspect of our marching band that we consider a point of pride is that we are an all volunteer marching ensemble.
- ▶ Information directly related to the marching band can be found in the Marching Band Handbook and the Detailed Calendar.
 - ▶ Students interested in participating in our Spring 2018 trip to CA must be enrolled in the marching band for the Fall of 2017.
- ▶ Fees for the marching band are outlined in the marching band handbook in detail.
 - ▶ Paid in four installments from May – August. Payment plans can be accommodated through communication with directors and boosters.

The Rampart Regiment

- ▶ The fee for the marching band is all inclusive:
 - ▶ Besides minor incidentals for personal equipment and accessories, the entirety of marching band is covered in this fee.
 - ▶ This includes overnight travel on the Fall 2018 trip.
 - ▶ Uniforms, busses, competition entry, etc. is all covered.
 - ▶ This stands in contrast to a majority of other marching programs that are of a similar caliber.
 - ▶ We strive to eliminate most if not all of the hidden costs of this activity.
- ▶ Myth vs. Reality
 - ▶ Myth - “The marching band rehearses 30 hours a week”
 - ▶ Reality – We rehearse the same or less than most other competitive activities at Rampart. Although it does require dedication and a commitment to rehearsals, most weeks during the school year we rehearse an average of 10-12 hours.
 - ▶ Nearly every Fall sport/activity at RHS practices 5 days a week for approximately 3 hours.

The Rampart Regiment

▶ Myth vs. Reality

- ▶ “I will not be able to succeed academically if I participate in the marching band”
 - ▶ Reality – You will need to manage your time effectively. However, the band program as a whole is filled with students who achieve at an incredibly high level. Of the 183 members of the RIM program this year, 72 have GPAs of 4.0 or higher. Of the roughly 100 members of the marching band 36 have GPAs of 4.0 or higher.
- ▶ “I can’t do marching band if I participate in Youth Symphony”
 - ▶ Reality – Every year we have students who participate in Youth Symphony, or other similar groups like The Colorado Children’s Chorale. Communication with directors and coaches is key, but with ample time to plan and prepare – we are able to make this work every time! If you are concerned about conflicts, contact the directors immediately.
- ▶ “Even with fundraising/sky sox/etc. there is no way I can afford marching band”
 - ▶ The boosters maintain an active and healthy scholarship endowment as well as account. We always strive to help every student who wishes to be a part of the music program. Contact the directors or the booster president if you are in need of a scholarship.

California Trip – Spring Break 2018

- ▶ Four day trip starting March 22, 2018 and returning Sunday, March 25, 2018. Students will perform in a parade at Disneyland!
 - ▶ Upon arrival in California, we will get to spend a little time at Newport beach prior to checking in at our hotel.
 - ▶ After check – in, we will head to “Medieval Times” for dinner and a show.
 - ▶ Day 2's events will include time inside either Disneyland or California Adventure Park. After a morning enjoying the park, we will begin our Hollywood recording session experience at Disney.
 - ▶ In the evening we will watch “The Wonderful World of Color”, a multimedia show similar to the Bellagio fountains in Las Vegas – BUT BIGGER!
 - ▶ On day 3 we will spend the morning in the park, and begin to stage for the parade in the early afternoon.
 - ▶ After performing, we will have the remaining time to enjoy Disneyland.
 - ▶ We will get to watch Disney's famous “Fantasmic Fireworks” to cap off our evening.
 - ▶ Day 4 will include a tour of Hollywood and downtown LA, and the return flight to DIA.

Rental Fees and Course Fees

- ▶ Students participating in ensembles and instrumental music classes at RHS are assessed the following fees. These fees help cover the cost of student travel to festivals, competitions, and performances – as well as music, repair, sectional coaches, and educational supplies.
 - ▶ Course Fee - \$45 per school year per ensemble.
 - ▶ Instrument Rental Fee - \$50 per semester, per instrument rented.
- ▶ Course fees and rental fees can be reduced or paid for through fundraising accounts with the boosters.
- ▶ Course fees and rental fees can also be reduced or waived with the assistance of the administration, counselling office, and directors of the Rampart Instrumental Music Program. This is often handled on a case by case basis.
- ▶ The **MOST IMPORTANT** aspect of dealing with any financial hardship is communication with the directors – our goal and number one priority is to always find a way for any student who is willing, to succeed in music at any level.

How to reduce/eliminate fees

- ▶ With a little bit of planning, time, and resourcefulness it is possible to reduce the out of pocket cost of nearly every fee associated with our program. Through the efforts of the Rampart Instrumental Music Boosters, we have several programs that can directly benefit your family, and your student.
 - ▶ Each student in the Rampart Instrumental Music program will be set up with an account in Charms. Charms is a program management service that allows us to quickly communicate with students and parents, manage a calendar with all RIM events, as well as manage fundraising, fees, and other essential elements of the music program.
 - ▶ Each student has an account within Charms called a “miscellaneous ledger”. All fundraising money that a student earns is collected in this account and can be used for a variety of purposes.

Student Fundraising Account

- ▶ The miscellaneous ledger funds can be used for any of the following:
 - ▶ Course Fees and Instrument Rental Fees at Rampart High School.
 - ▶ Honor band fees and registration – including sponsored trips involving hotel stays.
 - ▶ Private Lessons: There is no requirement as to who you pick as your teacher, simply provide a receipt from lessons and you can use your account to pay for them!
 - ▶ Band trips – any money raised by students that goes in their student account can be used to pay for trip fees.
 - ▶ Marching Band Fees – any portion of the marching band fee can be paid for with funds from a student's miscellaneous ledger.
 - ▶ Extra-Curricular Ensembles – The Winter Percussion and Winter Guard program fees can also be paid for with the miscellaneous ledger.

Student Fundraising Account

- ▶ There are a few items that cannot be reimbursed or paid for with the miscellaneous ledger:
 - ▶ Reeds, sticks, mallets, and other accessories cannot be purchased with these funds.
 - ▶ Personal instruments for individual students.
 - ▶ Fees for “outside” groups such as the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony.

Fundraising

- ▶ The easiest, and most effective way that you can earn FREE money for your miscellaneous ledger is SCRIP.
 - ▶ Scrip is a rebate program that donates a percentage of your every day purchases back to the band as well as your student.
 - ▶ Our goal is to have every student and family that participates in the Rampart Instrumental Music Program involved in Scrip.
 - ▶ Every day purchases like groceries, clothing, gas, and school supplies can be utilized to “pay yourself” back for things you would otherwise already purchase.
 - ▶ Families that effectively use the program essentially pay nothing for fees associated with the instrumental music program.
 - ▶ Easy to use, and with a little experience – a great way to provide more opportunities for kids!
- ▶ Introductory SCRIP meeting March 15, at RHS.

How we are communicating

- ▶ Nearly 100% of the communications from directors for ALL parts of the program are sent through the Charms email service. It is important that both parents *and* students are receiving and reading weekly newsletters as well as additional bulletins from both the boosters or directors.
 - ▶ This helps keep down on the amount of printing and paperwork that students must bring home and saves \$\$.
 - ▶ Please ensure that you have logged into Charms as soon as it becomes available to you and updated email addresses if necessary.

What can you do to help support your kids?

- ▶ Come to the Rampart Instrumental Music Booster Meetings!
 - ▶ We have an active parent organization committed to helping all of our instrumental classes be their best.
 - ▶ We could always use more input as well as volunteer help.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, March 8th at 6:30PM in the Band Room.

Private Lessons

- ▶ With roughly 200 students in the program the best way to help your student be successful is for them to be spending time with an expert teacher on *their* instrument.
 - ▶ If you are unsure as to who good teachers in the area are, please contact the directors for more information.



Rampart Regiment 2017 Show Preview

Beyond the HORIZON

A silhouette of a person stands on a grassy hill, looking out over a sunset or sunrise sky. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and red clouds, with the sun low on the horizon. The title 'Beyond the HORIZON' is written in a large, stylized, white font across the top of the image.

RAMPART REGIMENT 2017

