

ROXBURY MARCHING BANDS HANDBOOK



www.roxburybandsnj.org

Dear future Marching Band members,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you (or welcome you back) to the Roxbury High School Marching Band program for our 2026-2027 season! We are very excited to continue our tradition of excellence this coming year (3-time NJ State Champion!) as we get started. There are some new and exciting things in store for this year, you won't want to miss it!

So who are we? We are not just musicians; we are academicians, athletes, future doctors, engineers, teachers, lawyers, managers, and politicians. We are looking for a place to make new friends who want to belong and have fun. We face challenges head-on, we strive to be our best, and we are serious about being good at everything we do. **Not only are we YOU, we are ONE BAND, we are ONE FAMILY, we are the MARCHING GAELS!!!**

As a student at RHS, you will be signing up to become a member of our competitive marching band known as the **Roxbury Marching Gaels**. Each season, we put together a show that includes elements of visual drill design, body movement, and unique musical elements. These shows are entertaining and largely artistic in nature. The Marching Gaels have frequently performed at MetLife Stadium, Rutgers University, TCNJ, the United States Naval Academy, Towson University, University of Delaware, the historic J. Birney Crum Stadium in Allentown, PA, as well as in the halftime show for Superbowl XLVIII!

All members of the Roxbury Marching Gaels also perform at our football games as part of our show band called the Roxbury Sound! **The Roxbury Sound** is a fun "college style" band that performs a contemporary show appropriate for football games, such as a rock, pop, or jazz influenced show. It includes a rhythm section (guitar, piano, bass, drum set, etc.) as well as the potential for vocalists. The Roxbury Sound is well known for their performances *underneath the lights on Friday nights!* This group is made up of the Marching Gaels, in addition to our 8th Grade band and color guard members!

We know that each year, many questions arise. This handbook has been put together to assist students, parents, and guardians in answering those questions. If you are not able to find what you need, do not hesitate to contact us. Once again, welcome - we look forward to another exciting season with you!

Sincerely,

Mr. Ryan Sweer
Director of RHS Marching Bands



TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME MESSAGE	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
MARCHING BAND STAFF	3
MARCHING GAELS ACCOMPLISHMENTS	3
COMMUNICATIONS	4
RHSBPA WEBSITE	4
REMIND 101	4
SCHEDULES	5
2026-2027 SEASON SCHEDULE v.1	5
2026 REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES	5
PERCUSSION MINI-CAMP	5
PRE-CAMP REHEARSALS - mandatory for all students if you are in town and not on vacation	5
BAND CAMP - mandatory for all students	5
2026 SEASON cont. - Football Consolation/Playoff, Possible Dates - mandatory for all students (Games may be held at Roxbury, or away at the opposing school. Day is based partially on availability. If home, Roxbury Sound MAY perform at halftime. If away, we will only take the Gaels pep-band)	7
SPRING 2027 REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES	8
Performances and Competitions Consolidated	8
Sound-Only Summary (8th Graders)	8
STANDARDIZED TESTING SCHEDULES	9
ALL-STATE CHOIR/ORCHESTRA SCHEDULES	9
RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS	9
GENERAL FALL SCHEDULE STATEMENT	9
POLICIES	10
CODE OF CONDUCT	10
ATTENDANCE POLICY	11
MEDIA POLICY	12
MARCHING BAND UNIFORM GUIDELINES	13
FINANCIAL INFORMATION	16
FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY	16
FUNDRAISERS	17
REGISTRATION FORMS	17
CODE OF CONDUCT & CONTRACT	18

MARCHING BAND STAFF

<u>Marching Band Director</u>	Ryan Sweer	rsweer@roxbury.org
<u>Assistant Directors</u>	Justin Kulick Mark Monaghan	jkulick@roxbury.org mmonaghan@roxbury.org
<u>RHS Director of Bands</u>	Jeff Conrad	jconrad@roxbury.org

Color Guard Advisor - Sydney Verlezza
Percussion Advisor - Chris Jenkins

MARCHING GAELS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2025	<i>NJMBDA AA New Jersey State Champion - The Transmission</i>
2025	<i>NJMBDA NJ Regional Championship - AA Champion and Grand Champion</i>
2024	<i>NJMBDA AA New Jersey State Champion - Rearrange</i>
2023	<i>NJMBDA AA New Jersey State Champion - Too Close to the Sun</i>
2022	<i>NJMBDA AA New Jersey State Championships - 2nd Place - Toxic</i>
2021	<i>NJMBDA AA New Jersey State Championships - 2nd Place - Step Right Up</i>
2019	<i>USBands Group III Open NJ Regional Finalist - Out of Time</i>
2018	<i>USBands Group IV Open NJ Regional Finalist - The Spark!</i>
2017	<i>USBands Group IV Open NJ Regional Finalist - Ascend</i>
2015	<i>USBands Group IV Open NJ State Champion - Attract/Repel</i>
2014	<i>Super Bowl XLVIII Halftime Performance</i>
2009	<i>USSBA Group VI National Champion - Upon a King</i>
2008	<i>USSBA East Coast Championship - Rhythms of a City</i> ▪ <i>BEST MUSIC, BEST PERCUSSION, BEST EFFECT</i>
2007	<i>USSBA Group VI NJ State & East Coast Championship (1st time in school history) - Deja View</i> ▪ <i>BEST MUSIC</i> ▪ <i>US MARINE CORPS ESPRIT DE CORPS AWARD</i>

COMMUNICATIONS

RHSBPA WEBSITE

<http://www.roxburybandsnj.org/>

REMIND 101

Due to the Remind group-size maximums, the following groups have been set up to be able to include all members and make sure appropriate updates are received by the correct people.

Instructions for registration are listed below. Please only register for the appropriate Remind groups, you will be removed from any unrelated groups in order to keep space open for those who need to register.

Registration by Text (Text Notifications)

Text the appropriate class code (found below) to 81010 *You must include the @ symbol in your message for it to work!*

Registration in the Remind app

In the menu, click the "Join a class" option.
Insert the appropriate class code found below (no @ symbol required)

MARCHING GAELS - STUDENT MEMBERS

*Information for Gaels & Sound will be sent to this group.
You do not need to sign up for the Roxbury Sound-Only group.*

@rox-gaels

MARCHING GAELS - PARENTS/GUARDIANS

*Parent Information for Gaels & Sound will be sent to this group.
You do not need to sign up for the Roxbury Sound-Only group.*

@rox-parent

ROXBURY SOUND-ONLY - STUDENTS & PARENTS/GUARDIANS

*Information for Sound will be sent to this group.
Do not sign up for this group if you are in one of the Marching Gaels groups.*

@rox-sound

SCHEDULES

2026-2027 SEASON SCHEDULE v.1

All Roxbury Sound rehearsals and performances are highlighted below.

Listed end times are when rehearsal ends, students will be released after announcements/everything is cleaned up

2026 REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES

Monday	5/4	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Memorial Day parade rehearsal - 2025 Gaels/Sound Members
		4:15 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Reading Rehearsal - 2026 Gaels Members
Monday	5/11	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Memorial Day parade rehearsal - 2025 Gaels/Sound Members
		4:15 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Reading Rehearsal - 2026 Gaels Members
Monday	5/18	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Memorial Day parade rehearsal - 2025 Gaels/Sound Members
		4:15 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Reading Rehearsal - 2026 Gaels Members
Monday	5/25	TBD	Memorial Day Parade - 2025 Gaels/Sound Members
Monday	6/1	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Gaels Reading Rehearsal - 2026 Gaels Members
Monday	6/8	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Gaels Reading Rehearsal - 2026 Gaels Members

PERCUSSION MINI-CAMP

Tuesday	7/21	2:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Percussion Camp
Wednesday	7/22	2:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Percussion Camp
Thursday	7/23	2:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Percussion Camp

GUARD MINI-CAMP

Monday	7/27	2:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Guard Camp
Tuesday	7/28	2:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Guard Camp
Wednesday	7/29	2:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Guard Camp

PRE-CAMP REHEARSALS - mandatory for all students if you are in town and not on vacation

*Percussion Sectionals will be held from 3:00 - 4:30 pm on all Pre-Camp Rehearsal dates

Tuesday	8/4	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
		7:15 pm - 8:30 pm	Roxbury Sound Rehearsal
Thursday	8/6	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Tuesday	8/11	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
		7:15 pm - 8:30 pm	Roxbury Sound Rehearsal
Thursday	8/13	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal

BAND CAMP - mandatory for all students

Monday	8/17	10:00 am - 1:00 pm	NEW MARCHERS Gaels Rehearsal
		2:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Tuesday	8/18	10:00 am - 9:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Wednesday	8/19	10:00 am - 9:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Thursday	8/20	10:00 am - 9:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Friday	8/21	10:00 am - 9:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Saturday	8/22	10:00 am - 6:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal *SAT Day - PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE

THIS DAY!

7:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Friends & Family Band Camp Performance
-------------------	--

2026 SEASON - mandatory for all students

Sectionals will be held between school and rehearsal on days with evening practices. See weekly schedule for more details

Tuesday	8/25	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Wednesday	8/26	NO REHEARSAL	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
Thursday	8/27	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Roxbury Sound Rehearsal
		TBD	Football: Away vs. Parsippany Hills HS
Friday	8/28	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Saturday	8/29	10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Tuesday	9/1	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Wednesday	9/2	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
		7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Roxbury Sound Rehearsal
Friday	9/4	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
		TBD	Football: Home vs. Morris Knolls HS
Saturday	9/5	NO REHEARSAL - LABOR DAY WEEKEND	
Tuesday	9/8	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Wednesday	9/9	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Friday	9/11	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
		TBD	Football: Away vs. Morris Hills HS
Saturday	9/12	10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal *SAT test date
Tuesday	9/15	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Wednesday	9/16	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
		7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Roxbury Sound Rehearsal
Friday	9/18	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
		TBD	Football: Away vs. West Morris Central HS
Saturday	9/19	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal & Suckasunny Day *ACT Test Date
Tuesday	9/22	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Wednesday	9/23	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Friday	9/25	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
		TBD	Football: Home vs. Randolph HS *MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND
NIGHT*			
Saturday	9/26	TBD	16th Annual Roxbury Marching Band Classic
			<i>Performances by Roxbury Marching Gaels and Roxbury Sound</i>
Tuesday	9/29	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Wednesday	9/30	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Friday	10/2	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Saturday	10/3	TBD	Gaels Rehearsal & Competition - US Bands: Ludwig Musser Classic,
MetLife Stadium			

***SAT Day - PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE THIS DAY! MetLife is an ALL DAY event, we don't**

know our timeline

		TBD	Football: Away vs. Chatham HS
Tuesday	10/6	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Wednesday	10/7	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Friday	10/9	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
		TBD	Football: Away vs. Warren Hills HS
Saturday	10/10	TBD	Gaels Rehearsal & Competition - NJMBDA: West Orange HS
Tuesday	10/13	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Wednesday	10/14	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
		7:15 pm - 8:30 pm	Roxbury Sound Rehearsal
Friday	10/16	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
		TBD	Football: Home vs. Mt. Olive HS *ALUMNI & FAMILY NIGHT*
		(Homecoming)	
Saturday	10/17	TBD	Gaels Rehearsal & Competition - USBands: Lenape Valley HS
*ACT test date			
Tuesday	10/20	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Wednesday	10/21	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Friday	10/23	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
		TBD	Football: Home vs. Mendham HS *SENIOR NIGHT*
Saturday	10/24	TBD	Gaels Rehearsal & Competition - NJMBDA: Class Championships @ Piscataway
Tuesday	10/27	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Wednesday	10/28	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Friday	10/30	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Gaels Rehearsal
Saturday	10/31	TBD	Gaels Rehearsal & Competition - USBands: STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS @ TBD
Possible Consolation/Playoff Football Game this week, see below			
Tuesday	11/3	TBD	Possible States Rain Date Rehearsal
Wednesday	11/4	TBD	Possible States Rain Date Rehearsal
Friday	11/6	TBD	Possible States Rain Date Rehearsal
Saturday	11/7	TBD	Possible *STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RAIN DATE* *SAT test date
Possible Consolation/Playoff Football Game this week, see below			
Tuesday	11/10	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Celebratory Dinner for Gaels & Sound Members & Families

2026 SEASON cont. - Football Consolation/Playoff, Possible Dates - mandatory for all students

(Games may be held at Roxbury, or away at the opposing school. Day is based partially on availability.

If home, Roxbury Sound MAY perform at halftime. If away, we will only take the Gaels pep-band)

Thursday-Sunday	10/29-11/1	Hold for Possible Play-Off/Consolation Game	
Thursday-Sunday	11/5-8	Hold for Possible Play-Off Game	
Thursday-Sunday	11/12-15	Hold for Possible Play-Off Game	
Thursday-Sunday	11/19-22	Hold for Possible Play-Off Game	
Thursday-Sunday	11/26-11/29	Hold for Possible Play-Off Game	
Thursday-Sunday	12/3-6	Hold for Possible Play-Off Game	*SAT and ACT test date on 12/5

SPRING 2027 REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES

Monday	5/3	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Memorial Day parade rehearsal - 2026 Gaels/Sound Members
		4:15 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Reading Rehearsal - 2027 Gaels Members
Monday	5/10	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Memorial Day parade rehearsal - 2026 Gaels/Sound Members
		4:15 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Reading Rehearsal - 2027 Gaels Members
Monday	5/17	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Memorial Day parade rehearsal - 2026 Gaels/Sound Members
		4:15 pm - 6:00 pm	Gaels Reading Rehearsal - 2027 Gaels Members
Monday	5/24	TBD	Memorial Day Parade - 2026 Gaels/Sound Members
Monday	5/31	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Gaels Reading Rehearsal - 2027 Gaels Members
Monday	6/7	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Gaels Reading Rehearsal - 2027 Gaels Members

Performances and Competitions Consolidated

Saturday	9/19	Performance	Suckasunny Day
Saturday	9/26	Home Show	16th Annual Roxbury Marching Band Classic
Saturday	10/3	Competition	USBands: Ludwig Musser Classic @ MetLife Stadium
Saturday	10/10	Competition	NJMBDA: West Orange HS
Saturday	10/17	Competition	USBands: Lenape Valley HS
Saturday	10/24	Competition	NJMBDA: Class Championship @ Piscataway HS
Saturday	10/31	Competition	USBands: State Championships @ TBD
TBD		*RAIN DATE*	USBands: State Championships @ TBD

Sound-Only Summary (8th Graders)

Tuesday	8/4	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Roxbury Sound Rehearsal
Tuesday	8/11	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Roxbury Sound Rehearsal
Thursday	8/27	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Roxbury Sound Rehearsal
Wednesday	9/2	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Roxbury Sound Rehearsal
Wednesday	9/16	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Roxbury Sound Rehearsal
Saturday	9/26	Evening	16th Annual Roxbury Marching Band Classic
Friday	August - October		Any Home Football Game
Th/Fr/Sat/Sun	October - December		Hold for Possible Home Play-off Games
Mondays	May 3, 10, 17, 24		Memorial Day Parade rehearsals and Parade

STANDARDIZED TESTING SCHEDULES

There is no question that academics come first and foremost for all students. In the case of standardized testing and conflicts with the 2026 competitive marching band schedule, the following has been arranged:

SATs

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| August 22 | This is the morning of our last day of band camp and Family/Friends performance, please avoid. |
| September 12 | This is a camp day before competitions, schedule this one! |
| October 3 | This is a show day at MetLife and we don't know yet know our performance time. Please avoid scheduling SATs for this date. |
| November 7 | This is the rain date for State Championships, please avoid if possible. |
| December 5 | No conflict, please try to schedule SATs for this day. |

ACTs

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| September 19 | This is on Suckasunny Day, please avoid if possible. |
| October 17 | This is a local competition, this would be the better option. |

ALL-STATE CHOIR/ORCHESTRA SCHEDULES

Students who are accepted to an All-State ensemble are excused from one rehearsal due to a conflict. We will discuss which rehearsal to miss when results are released. Students are expected to arrive to marching band at the conclusion of the remaining rehearsals.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Religious observances are considered an excused absence at the. Students are expected to communicate conflicts and concerns in a timely fashion.

GENERAL FALL SCHEDULE STATEMENT

Much of the band's success depends on **individual ownership** of the Band Calendar. It is the responsibility of each individual student to be aware of the calendar. You can find a digital calendar as well as updates and reminders on our website. Please reference the attendance policy if you have any questions regarding potential conflicts.

POLICIES

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. The use and/or possession of alcohol, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, drugs, or drug-like substances will not be tolerated. Any student found to be in violation of this rule would face immediate administrative and legal action.
2. Students will be prompt about adhering to the times listed on the schedule, and avoid any conflicts with this schedule. This includes Marching Gaels, Roxbury Sound, and Pep Band responsibilities.
3. Destruction and/or damage of school owned or outside property will not be tolerated. It will be the responsibility of the guilty party and or parties to pay for, replace, and/or repair any damage.
4. Disrespect towards any staff member, chaperone, or authority figure will not be tolerated.
5. Students will treat all peers in a respectful and honorable manner.
6. Students will prepare oneself in the areas of music and drill before rehearsal so that the ensemble rehearsal can be a positive and motivating experience for all involved.
7. Students will bring a positive attitude to rehearsals, despite personal problems or conflicts with other members. As such, students will behave in a manner that will bring dignity upon the entire band program.
8. Students are solely responsible for their equipment and possessions. The school holds no liability whatsoever for lost or stolen items.
9. In addition to the above, all school rules will be in effect. Students should clearly understand that they are a representative of Roxbury High School and the Roxbury High School Instrumental Music Department and therefore are expected to behave in a mature and exemplary manner. Respect for one another and themselves is imperative.

STUDENTS FOUND IN VIOLATION OF THE ABOVE WILL POTENTIALLY FACE:

- **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**
- **EXPULSION FROM THEIR PERFORMING ENSEMBLE**
- **ACTION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES**
- **CONTACT OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS TO ARRANGE FOR IMMEDIATE TRANSPORTATION HOME AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE**

THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS OF MONIES PAID AS A RESULT OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION!

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In order to have a high quality, Varsity-Level marching band, attendance from all members is essential. *Work schedules, trips, and other unapproved activities must not interfere* with the rehearsal and long range performance schedule that you are given at the beginning of the season. Participation in the Marching Gaels and another approved RHS Fall sport or activity is allowed only at the discretion of the directors. If the other activity significantly interferes with the marching season schedule, a choice will have to be made. If you are hoping to participate in another school activity, please plan on having a conversation with a director upon Marching Gaels registration. Be prepared with a complete semester calendar from any other activities so you can compare schedules to see if things are possible. If your activity is approved, please remember that other groups, organizations, or businesses that may change schedules or make demands of students on short notice will not be allowed to interfere with the long-range rehearsal and performance schedule of the marching band. Please observe the following policies and procedures:

Approved Activity Shared Schedule Considerations -

- Students must follow agreed-upon shared schedules
- Any unforeseen conflicts MUST be communicated to the directors as soon as they become known
- In the event of a sport/activity practice or game cancellation, students should report to marching band rehearsal if scheduled
- In the event that a sport practice is moved to a scheduled marching band time, students must communicate with Mr. Sweer immediately and work together to find a suitable way to swap times so they may still be at an equivalent number of marching band practices. If this is not possible, marching band must take precedent as rehearsal time compared to sports is limited.
- If a sports game is moved to a scheduled marching band competition time, students must communicate with Mr. Sweer immediately and work together to figure out if there is a way to make both work within the confines of the competition-day schedule. If there is no way, students are expected to attend the marching competition as it was the originally-scheduled event for the day.

Pep Band Attendance - All Marching Gaels are expected to go to away games. With advanced notice, and at the director's discretion, a student may be excused from one away game. Student leaders and Drum Majors are expected to attend all away games.

Attendance Check will begin promptly at the start of rehearsal in the basics block.

Schedule Listed Times - Times listed in the schedule or in communications are start and end times of the rehearsal. Once rehearsal is over, students are usually given announcements and then expected to help clean up and move instruments and other equipment to their designated locations before having down time. We will make this happen as quickly as possible, but your patience and understanding of all that goes into the schedule and program is appreciated.

Tardiness

Students not in the attendance block in their assigned position at the appropriate time will be marked tardy. The student must upon arrival explain to the director the reason for tardiness. Tardiness will be excused at the discretion of the directors. All tardies will be converted to a mark of absence 15 minutes after the rehearsal begins. Students who acquire two unexcused tardies shall be subject to the consequences equivalent to one absence as outlined below.

Participation in Roxbury Sound-Only

This designation is reserved for students in EMS, or approved RHS students who have a legitimate schedule conflict. Choosing this option on the registration form will initiate a conversation with a director who will ultimately make the decision whether or not to allow Sound-only participation.

The following are *examples* of **Absences** that will be considered excused and unexcused:

Excused Absence

- Approved RHS fall sports/activities that follow the agreed upon schedule
- Personal illness requiring medical attention
- Death or Wedding in the family
- Other serious problems

Unexcused Absence

- Attending Concerts, Performances, Sporting Events
- Attending Comic-Con, E3, or similar Conferences
- Family Events outside of Weddings or Funerals
- Student Babysitting or Work Responsibilities
- Other Organization's Competitions, Festivals, Fundraising Events, and Schedule Changes

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES will be subject to the following at the discretion of the directors:

- 1st Offense: Loss of 3rd quarter break privileges for one game
- 2nd Offense: Loss of bus privilege and no 3rd quarter break for one game
- 3rd Offense: Removal from the marching band

Unexcused absence from a Saturday rehearsal will result in accumulation of TWO unexcused absences

ANY ABSENCE YOU WISH TO BE EXCUSED MUST BE COMMUNICATED TO THE DIRECTORS AHEAD OF TIME. PLEASE RESPECT THE PROGRAM AND THE SCHEDULE BY SETTING UP APPOINTMENTS, EXTRA ACADEMIC HELP, OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES, ETC OUTSIDE OF REHEARSAL TIME. COMMUNICATION IS KEY!

MEDIA POLICY

Throughout the season, the Roxbury Marching Bands will take photos and videos of students for use in promotional materials, social media, and other band-related content. We follow the media consent guidelines set by Roxbury Public Schools. If a student does not wish to be included in photos or videos, it is their responsibility to ensure their media permissions are updated with the district.

MARCHING BAND UNIFORM GUIDELINES

Students are expected to follow the listed uniform guidelines. No variations will be allowed.

This uniform is the apparel that identifies you as a Marching Band member. It must be **ALWAYS** be worn properly.

General Uniform Information

- Students will be issued a number for their uniform and shako. This number should be memorized or recorded in a readily accessible location. Students will use this number to pick up their uniform and shako from the storage room.
- Only the uniform parents or a director may hand out a uniform: Students may not enter the uniform storage room to pick up a uniform.
- The uniform must be hung up correctly on its return or you will be sent to the end of the line. Students who are unaware of how to hang up their uniform properly should ask a section leader or student leader for assistance.

Uniform Parts

- **Assigned Uniform:** Every band member will be assigned a uniform including a set of bib pants, jacket, gauntlets, gloves, shoes, shakos, and plume. These uniforms shall NOT go home with a band member. In the event a piece of the uniform is lost, the band member will be responsible for the replacement cost. The entire uniform costs approximately \$550.
- **Band “R” or Show T-Shirt:** (all students) This is to be worn under the marching coat. **NO TANK TOPS.** These shirts will be provided for you at Band Camp. (During the colder months long undergarments such as Under Armor can be worn underneath your uniform and t-shirt, but the t-shirt MUST be the top layer under the uniform). “R”-shirts will be worn for any Roxbury Sound or Pep Band activity. Show shirts for any Marching Gaels activity.
- **Shako:** (Gaels only) The adjustable chinstrap is to be worn at all times. The chinstrap should be adjusted so that the shako does not fall back while playing or at attention. **The helmet/shako is NEVER to be worn backwards and must be carried as demonstrated by your section leader.**
- **Plume:** (Gaels only) The plume is fastened into the shako by simply inserting it into the plume holder and pushing it down. To take the plume off of the shako, pinch the wire at the base of the plume while pulling it off. Plumes will be distributed and collected before and after every performance.
- **Gloves:** (Gaels only) White & Black marching band gloves are distributed in the high school band uniform room **before** performances. Gloves must be **CLEAN** and in good condition. Gloves will be collected after each performance. All wind players must wear gloves at performances.
- **Gauntlets:** (Gaels only) Gauntlets are distributed in the high school band uniform room **before** performances. Gauntlets must be **CLEAN** and in good condition. Gauntlets will be collected after each performance.

- **Drill Masters:** (all students) marching shoes with a rolled heel are purchased separately and are to be worn at all performances. Shoes must be polished before all performances. Only **PLAIN BLACK** socks are to be worn with the marching band uniform. **BLACK** socks must be high cut. NO LOW-CUT socks. **If marching shoes cannot be obtained due to financial reasons, please contact Mr. Sweer as soon as possible.**
- Color Guard will receive all uniform information from the color guard staff.
- **Roxbury Sound members are not responsible for gloves, gauntlets, shakos, or plumes.**

Care of the Marching Uniform

Proper care of the uniform is essential. Members must pride themselves in taking good care of school equipment. When the Roxbury High School Marching Band performs, the visual impact must be as great as the musical impact. This means that each and every member must do their utmost to ensure that the uniform stays clean and that shoes are polished. **If your uniform needs cleaning between games please inform the parent helper when returning your uniform.**

Marching Band Performance Grooming (Gaels)

To insure the clean, uniform appearance of the Marching Band, the following grooming regulations will be STRICTLY adhered to:

- Hair shall be worn off the uniform collar and behind the ears. Band members may choose to meet these requirements by either cutting the hair to a manageable length or putting hair up in such a way that it will not fall down when the helmet/shako is taken off. When the latter choice is made, band members must use a hair net, bobby pins, or other inconspicuous devices to hold hair in place through the entire performance, day or evening. Bright colored mesh hairnets and other noticeable devices are prohibited.
- **Jewelry (earrings, bracelets, rings, watches, sunglasses, etc.) WILL NOT BE WORN WHILE IN UNIFORM.**
- Makeup worn while in uniform must be modest and simple. Students who do not follow this policy will be asked to wash off their makeup off before leaving. Color guard members are exempt from this policy, as specific makeup will be used as part of the color guard uniform.
- Students may not wear extra layers of clothing under the uniform besides long undergarments thin pants/shorts, and an "R"-Shirt or Show shirt. (example: jeans, sweat pants, sweat shirts, hoodies, etc.). The t-shirt must be the top layer under the uniform.
- Each section leader will inspect his/her section before every performance. Band members will make certain that all of the above criteria are met and will double check to see if the shoes, uniform, and other equipment of her/his section are acceptable.
- The uniform must be worn in its entirety unless otherwise decided by the director, from the time the band leaves RHS to the moment they return. Students may NOT change into regular clothes while away unless otherwise instructed by a director.
- The section leaders and director will take action should any of these criteria not be met. Pending review through the chain of command, members not conforming to these guidelines will not be permitted to participate until these guidelines are met.
- All modifications including, but not limited to, face paint, glitter, hair ribbons, and extreme makeup are strictly prohibited.

Uniform Decorum

Marching Gaels

- Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times when in public, except the shako. The only exception to this will be when a director instructs you that you may remove your shako or jacket.
- While wearing the Roxbury Marching uniform, you are a representative of the Roxbury Band program and Roxbury High School. You are expected to exercise common sense and good judgment while in uniform at all times, while exuding the pride our organization has for itself.
- While in full uniform, there is absolutely no: PDA, eating, smoking, swearing, or running.

Roxbury Sound & Pep Band

- For football games, Roxbury Sound members are not responsible for gloves, gauntlets, shakos, or plumes.
- Winter hats, gloves, and scarves are permitted in the stands. The directors may ask students to leave those items in the stands for the halftime performance, depending on the circumstances.
- Roxbury Sound students must be very careful to keep the uniform clean while eating during the third quarter.
- Face paint, hair bows, glitter, and other enhancements are permissible for the Roxbury Sound at the discretion of the directors.

Uniform Responsibilities

Uniform Items	Ensemble		Ownership Responsibility	
	Gaels	Sound	School	Student
Assigned Uniform (bib pants & jacket)	X	X	X	
Show shirt/"R" shirt	X	X		X
Helmet/Shako	X		X	
Plume	X		X	
Gloves	X		X	
Gauntlets	X		X	
Dinkles	X	X		X
Long Black Socks	X	X		X

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In an effort to help keep payment for the 2026 Roxbury High School Marching Band convenient, we have instituted the following payment plan for this year.

Single Student (Marching Gaels)

TOTAL COST:	\$450.00 per student*	
DEPOSIT	\$50.00	<u>NON-REFUNDABLE</u> Due upon enrollment
PAYMENT #1	\$100.00	May 15 th 2026
PAYMENT #2	\$100.00	June 15 th 2026
PAYMENT #3	\$100.00	July 15 th 2026
PAYMENT #4	\$100.00	August 15 th 2026

Family Plan (Marching Gaels) - First student pays the normal fee, any additional Gaels members pay half price

TOTAL COST:	\$675.00 Family Plan (2 student example)*	
DEPOSIT	\$75.00	<u>NON-REFUNDABLE</u> Due upon enrollment
PAYMENT #1	\$150.00	May 15 th 2026
PAYMENT #2	\$150.00	June 15 th 2026
PAYMENT #3	\$150.00	July 15 th 2026
PAYMENT #4	\$150.00	August 15 th 2026

Single Student (Roxbury Sound)

TOTAL COST:	\$100.00 per student*	
DEPOSIT	\$50.00	<u>NON-REFUNDABLE</u> Due upon enrollment
PAYMENT #1	\$50.00	May 15 th 2026

Students' first R-Shirt and pair of Marching Shoes are free; if replacements are needed, the student will need to purchase them.
The current replacement costs for 2026/2027 are: **R-Shirt: \$15** **Marching Shoes: \$45**

PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE VIA THE FOLLOWING METHODS...

- Check made out to "RHSBPA", handed directly to a band director or mailed to:
RHSBPA / P.O. Box 187 / Succasunna, NJ 07876
- Cash handed directly to a band director (DO NOT PUT CASH IN THE MAIL PLEASE)
- Electronic Payment directly from your Invoice through the "Pay Now" button
- Electronic Payment through Zelle services. To do this, 1) make the payment to "finance@rhsbpa.org", and 2) make sure to include a short memo/note with the student name and payment purpose. For instance, "Vincent Bach, Marching Gaels dues"
- Student's individual fundraising account**

* Fees for the Marching Gaels/Roxbury Sound are applied to the following expenses: instrument purchases and repairs, uniform apparel, music purchases and licensing, competition fees, marching band specific equipment, prop supplies and construction, auxiliary staff compensation, various aspects of the show design, equipment truck and scissor lift rentals, show t-shirts, band camp food, as well as many other expenses not covered by the Board of Education.

* It is our intent that no student be denied participation in instrumental music programs due to financial hardship. Should you find yourself in this situation, we ask that you contact a band director for a confidential discussion of circumstances and options.

** Upon graduation, any remaining credit in a student's fundraising account will be absorbed into the general BPA account; alternatively, a student may elect to transfer the credit to a sibling or another specific band student in the program. Fundraised monies may not be 'refunded' to the student, only transferred within the organization.

FUNDRAISERS

The Roxbury HS Band Parents association will be sponsoring numerous fundraisers throughout the year to go toward a student account to offset these costs.

Current fundraising information can be found online under the “fundraising” tab at <http://www.roxburybandsnj.org/fundraising/>

There is also an ongoing RaiseRight Fundraiser; more information can be found online at <https://www.roxburybandsnj.org/raiseright/>

REGISTRATION FORMS

***** Registration MUST be filled out online.**

***** The Code of Conduct/Contract MUST be a signed hard copy form and should be given to Mr. Sweer.**

ONLINE REGISTRATION: <https://forms.gle/Jre77NbcA3mUYxZm7>

Please fill out the Membership Form and Shoe/Shirt Order Form online, and turn in the Code of Conduct/Contract and your deposit by MAY 16th

☐ **Membership Registration**

- Must be filled out online

☐ **Shoe & Shirt Order Form**

- Contained within the online Membership Registration

☐ **Code of Conduct/Contract**

- The final page of this packet... Must be a signed hard-copy form

**Mandatory school-issued health and physical paperwork
will be distributed in the near future.**

CODE OF CONDUCT & CONTRACT

ROXBURY HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Effective – July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

1. The use and/or possession of alcohol, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, drugs, or drug-like substances will not be tolerated. Any student found to be in violation of this rule would face immediate administrative and legal action.
2. Students will be prompt about adhering to the times listed on the schedule, and avoid any conflicts with this schedule. This includes Marching Gaels, Roxbury Sound, and Pep Band responsibilities.
3. Destruction and/or damage of school owned or outside property will not be tolerated. It will be the responsibility of the guilty party and or parties to pay for, replace, and/or repair any damage.
4. Disrespect towards any staff member, chaperone, or authority figure will not be tolerated.
5. Students will treat all peers in a respectful and honorable manner.
6. Students will prepare oneself in the areas of music and drill before rehearsal so that the ensemble rehearsal can be a positive and motivating experience for all involved.
7. Students will bring a positive attitude to rehearsals, despite personal problems or conflicts with other members. As such, students will behave in a manner that will bring dignity upon the entire band program.
8. Students are solely responsible for their equipment and possessions. The school holds no liability whatsoever for lost or stolen items.
9. In addition to the above, all school rules will be in effect. Students should clearly understand that they are a representative of Roxbury High School and the Roxbury High School Instrumental Music Department and therefore are expected to behave in a mature and exemplary manner. Respect for one another and themselves is imperative.

**STUDENTS FOUND IN VIOLATION OF THE ABOVE WILL POTENTIALLY FACE:
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION, EXPULSION FROM THEIR PERFORMING ENSEMBLE, ACTION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES, OR
CONTACT OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS TO ARRANGE FOR IMMEDIATE TRANSPORTATION HOME AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE.**

THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS OF MONIES PAID AS A RESULT OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION!

*We have read and understand the above Contract and Code of Conduct and will accept the decision of
administration and directors as binding.*

STUDENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN _____