

RISD 6th Grade Music Guidelines



**Fine Arts Department
Jeff Bradford, Executive Director**



Every child. Every Teacher. Every Leader. Every Day

Dear Students and Parents,

RISD music staff and administrators have collaborated to develop the *RISD Music Program Guidelines* to provide 6th grade music students and their parents as much information as possible about our programs. These guidelines are published to provide general information about our district-wide instrumental and vocal music programs.

In addition to these district guidelines, your campus music program may provide specific guidelines and information regarding your student's participation in the local school program. The district guidelines are minimum standards that must be followed. However, campus guidelines may be expanded to meet the needs of each local school. We ask that you carefully read this handbook detailing student expectations in our programs.

Students who begin in our program in the sixth grade can look forward to a comprehensive, sequential music education through the twelfth grade. Throughout their study, students will be provided a thorough foundation in individual performance fundamentals with an emphasis on developing ensemble concepts and skills

We are proud of the tradition of excellence that our music programs enjoy. With your help and support, we look forward to continuing this tradition of educational excellence in music.

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this handbook, please contact the RISD Fine Arts Office at 469-593-0430.

Sincerely,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINE ARTS

RISD 6th Grade Music Program Guidelines

General Guidelines and Recruitment

- RISD Fine Arts provides beginner band and orchestra programming at all RISD Elementary campuses. Any student in the 6th grade has the option of enrolling in band or orchestra. Students will attend recruiting events in the spring of their 5th grade year to learn about each option at their campus.
- Pilot Campuses—RISD is piloting a 6th grade music elective program at Terrace, Dartmouth, Yale, Jess Harben, Bowie, Mohawk, Prestonwood, and Hamilton Park Elementary campuses.
 - Pilot campuses allow every 6th grade student to either choose band, choir, or orchestra in place of their weekly elementary music class. This daily commitment of 45 minutes will apply to all 6th grade students at the pilot campuses.
 - This programming gives students a head start on transitioning to middle school electives and fulfills the RISD Music requirement for 6th grade students.
- All RISD music courses require full year participation and involve outside of school hour rehearsals and performances.
- Junior high music teams will collaborate and develop a comprehensive recruiting plan that will be submitted to the district Fine Arts Office for approval at least 14 calendar days prior to any recruiting or advertising of the events.
- All approved information regarding recruitment dates and events must be coordinated and communicated with each campus principal.

Equal Opportunity

RISD will provide nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities in the manner necessary to afford students with disabilities an equal opportunity for participation in those services and activities. If a student requires a reasonable accommodation to try out or participate in the nonacademic or extracurricular services and activities, parents/guardians are asked to contact their campus administration to discuss the accommodation request as soon as possible and prior to tryouts. Accommodation requests will be reviewed by the appropriate staff to determine what accommodations may be made without fundamentally altering the program.

Calendar of Events

- Each music program is responsible for developing an annual calendar of activities that includes major events and activities. The calendar should be made available to students and parents no later than the start of each semester. Revisions will be communicated in a timely fashion.

Conduct

- Any organization that has high performance standards must also have high behavioral standards. The basic behavioral guidelines for students in music activities are taken from the RISD Student Code of Conduct Handbook. Specific guidelines above and beyond those outlined in the RISD Student Code of Conduct can be found in your organization's specific guidelines located in the campus organization's music handbook.

- Students are expected to follow all campus discipline guidelines and will not be removed from programming at pilot campuses.

Instruments

- Students in band and orchestra are required to have an instrument in order to participate. Instruments must be obtained by parents.
- Specific guidance with regards to instrument rental from trusted vendors will be provided at each instrument fitting event.
- RISD owns and will provide the following instruments (which are limited in number) for an annual usage fee of \$100: oboe, bassoon, French horn, euphonium, tuba, and double bass. All other instruments can be rented through a local dealer. Information will be provided by your campus director.
- In addition to the usage fee, students are responsible for maintenance, repair and insurance of school-owned instruments against theft or loss while in their possession. Instruments must be returned at the end of the school year in the same condition as issued, minus normal wear and tear. Any costs associated with damage from negligence or malicious intent will be assessed to the student.
- Students using a school owned instrument may use that instrument at a reduced annual usage fee of \$50 by providing proof of their free and reduced lunch qualification.
- The maintenance, repair and insurance against theft or damage of these personal instruments are solely the responsibility of each student.
- All district provided instruments are on a first come, first serve basis due to the limited inventory available.

Medical Release & Permission to Travel Form

- All students enrolled in band, choir and orchestra must have a Medical Release Form on file prior to traveling off campus. If the form has not been completed, the student will not be permitted to travel off campus.

Private Lessons – Voluntary Music Enrichment Program and Fees

- Private lessons are available for interested students as an enrichment program in Band, Choir and Orchestra at secondary campuses. Private lessons are not available at elementary campuses. Private lessons may occur after school.
- The Head Director/Lesson Coordinator coordinates the private lesson program in each high school attendance area in collaboration with RISD guidelines.
- The private teachers are contracted by parents through the RISD and must complete an Application and a Criminal History check.
- The private teachers are monitored by the Head Director/Lesson Coordinator at each high school and teach at each secondary campus.
- Private study fees are consistent throughout the District and are determined through the Office of Fine Arts. The current fee is \$22 per lesson.
- Private study is not a requirement for participation in any of the music organizations.

Required Expenses and Fees

- A supply fee not to exceed \$50 is necessary to assist students in getting started and securing appropriate items to be successful in their music ensemble. These supplies may include but are not limited to binders, pencil pouches, after-school master classes, and t-shirts for performances/events.
- Spring festival fees are separate from supply fees and will be communicated with advance notice for students who qualify for the spring festival travel if offered at their campus.
- Instrument purchase/rental: Individual instruments are the responsibility of the student/parent, and may be purchased or rented. A limited number of district-owned instruments may be available for an annual usage fee as listed above. Families are encouraged to rent their instrument, when possible, from an approved vendor as most rental programs operate on a rent to own system. This is the best guarantee for a high-quality instrument that the student can eventually own.
- Financial assistance and payment plans are available for students who need help meeting required supply fees and other expenses related to this activity. Assistance, based on the organization's needs and, on the commitment, and interest of the individual student, may be obtained by communicating with your campus director and/or principal.

Travel

- Spring Festivals are attended at the discretion of the campus director. These events are not mandatory and, if attended, will incur additional fees.
- When traveling, each student must meet all local and state eligibility requirements to participate in the event.
- Students must be able to satisfactorily perform the material assigned for the performance.
- Students must attend scheduled rehearsals in order to participate in the event.
- Students must fulfill their financial obligation.
- Students who fail to meet the minimum expectations of the organization may not be eligible to travel.