

RIO AMERICANO BAND Program

HANDBOOK 2019–2020

www.rioband.net

Great Kids
High Expectations
World Class Music

Welcome to the world-renowned Rio Americano High School Band Program. Rio Band has a long history of fantastic music, pride, and top-notch education. That tradition will be furthered this year, as we continue our musical life in our state-of-the-art performance and classroom facility. We are very excited about the challenges and adventures that await all of us.

-Our Directors-

Josh Murray has been a tireless band teacher and musical mentor at Rio since 1998. Mr. Murray grew up in New York City and attended the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, learning from Reggie Workman, Jimmy Cobb, Ira Gitler, Kenny Werner, and Joanne Brackeen, among others. Mr. Murray's performing credits include shows with Phil Woods, Jimmy Smith, Peter Erskine, Bobby Shew, Gary Foster, Donny McCaslin, Wycliffe Gordon, the Jim Widner Big Band, and the Drifters. He is a member of the Sacramento Jazz Orchestra and the Ron Cunha Big Band. Mr. Murray has a Bachelor's Degree in History from UC Davis and a Masters in Education from Chapman University. He is a contributing author to *Teaching Music Through Performance in Jazz, Vol. 2*.

Mitch Evett grew up in Vernon Hills, IL where he was heavily involved in the music scene, playing bass trombone in concert and jazz band, orchestra and singing tenor in choir. He got a Bachelor of Music in Instrumental Music Education from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. After graduating Mitch taught high school and middle school band in Shakopee, Minnesota for five years and was the assistant conductor for the City of Lakes Community Band and subbed frequently with the Minnesota Symphonic Winds. His teachers include Colleen Bayoneto, Tim Riordan, Randy Sundell, Frank Lestina, Jeremy Little, Timothy Mahr, Steve Amundson and Dave Hagedorn. He recently moved to Sacramento following his wife's residency match and is excited to begin his new position at Rio Americano High School

From the Directors, Josh Murray and Mitch Evett

PHILOSOPHY OF RIO BAND

Our goal is to provide the finest possible musical education while promoting character and excellence from all of our students. This is done in a positive and creative atmosphere that focuses on independent thought, self esteem, maturity, creativity, respect, leadership, teamwork, work ethic and personal responsibility. Music is the means to the end of creating successful, creative and happy adults.

While we do participate in some competitions, trophies will never be a goal for us. We strive to approach every rehearsal and performance with passion and professionalism, and to play all styles of music with a deep respect for history and culture. As a result of these efforts, we tend to win awards. Either way, we are equally proud of our kids.

Virtually every instrumental music program begins with Concert Band- a large ensemble. From there, if the number of students supports it, the school can offer other smaller classes, other levels, or other kinds of bands. In our case, we've been fortunate to add three Jazz Bands, other levels of Concert Band, and our one-of-a-kind Small Ensemble class.

It is important to remember that all the decisions we make regarding policies are done for the good of the students and the overall good of the program. Implementation is done only after careful scrutiny and with virtual certainty that the change is for the better. Feel free to contact us with any questions.

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Mitch Evett- email: mitch.evett@sanjuan.edu (Cell) [REDACTED]

Director cell numbers are for emergency use only and not for general distribution

2018/19 Rio Band Calendar

(Tentative and Partial)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|
| Thurs, 8/22- | Central Europe 2020 trip meeting 7pm, M1 | (HCB, 0 per) |
| Tues, 8/27- | RABB Meetings in M1/M2. 6pm Board, 7:15 General | (Parents) |
| Wed, 9/25- | Smamble Night. 7pm in PAC | (Smamble) |
| Sun, 9/29- | AM Jazz Ensemble @ Monterey Jazz Festival | (AM) |
| Thurs, 10/10- | Pops Concert. 7pm in PAC (All Concert Bands) | (Concert Bands) |
| Thurs, 10/17- | AM Jazz Ensemble in Concert with Bob Mintzer. 7pm in PAC | (AM) |
| Wed, 10/30- | Smamble Night. 7pm in PAC | (Smamble) |
| Fri, 11/1- | USAF Band in Concert @ Rio | (HCB) |
| Fri, 11/8- | Playathon. All day/night, in PAC, M1, M2, Small Gym | (Everyone!) |
| Sat, 12/7- | CSUS Winter Jazz Festival | (Jazz Bands) |
| Wed, 12/11- | Smamble Night. 7pm in PAC | (Smamble) |
| Fri/Sat, 12/13, 14- | AM Jazz Ensemble recording. M1/M2 | (AM) |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Wed, 1/15- | RABB Meetings in M1/M2. 6pm Board, 7:15 General | (Parents) |
| Fri/Sat, 1/17, 18- | AM Jazz Ensemble recording. M1/M2 | (AM) |
| Thurs, 1/23- | Kiwanis/ Wayne Reimers Jazz Festival. | (All Jazz) |
| Sat, 1/25- | Folsom Jazz Festival | (All Jazz) |
| Wed, 2/5- | Smamble Night. 7pm in PAC | (Smamble) |
| Fri, 2/7- | Traditional Jazz Festival. 7pm in PAC | (Trad Combos) |
| Tues, 2/11- | Winter Concert. 7pm in PAC | (Concert Bands) |
| Fri, Sat 2/15,16- | Mingus Festival, NYC | (Mingus Combo, pending acceptance) |
| Sat, 3/7- | Dinner Dance @ Scottish Rite Center | (Jazz Bands) |
| Wed, 3/18- | Smamble Night. 7pm in PAC | (Smamble) |
| Sat, 3/21- | Santa Cruz Jazz Festival | (PM, FM) |
| Fri-Sun, 4/3-5- | Monterey NGJF | (AM, pending acceptance) |
| Tues, 4/14- | Translation Showcase. 7pm in PAC | (HCB) |
| Wed, 4/29- | Smamble Night. 7pm in PAC | (Smamble) |
| Fri, 5/1- | Spring Concert. 6pm in PAC | (Everyone!) |
| Fri-Sun, 5/8-10- | Essentially Ellington Festival, NYC | (AM, pending acceptance) |
| Wed- 5/27- | AM Jazz Concert | (AM) |
| Wed- 6/3- | Graduation | (HCB, AM) |

MANY other events will be added

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| HCB- | Honors Concert Band |
| ACB- | Advanced Concert Band |
| ICB- | Intermediate Concert Band |
| Ens/ Smamble- | Small Ensemble |
| AM, PM, FM- | Jazz Ensembles |

Expectations, Policies and Requirements

How to be successful in Rio Band

Work Hard

Always be on time

Treat others with kindness

Remain open to new musical styles and experiences

Be respectful and encouraging of differences

Stay positive and humble

Expect excellence, from yourself and others

Attendance Policy

A musical group's success and cohesion depends upon the full participation of all of its members. Tardies and absences have a negative impact on everyone in a group, and should be avoided whenever possible. Students are expected to be on time every day and to have all absences excused, by a parent or guardian, through the main office. Due to the unique, participatory nature of band classes, missing or being unprepared for rehearsals without prior approval of the Director will affect the academic AND citizenship grades, and could cause students to sit out a performance.

Students will receive a FAILING academic grade on the next progress report or report card for missing a performance without prior notification of (**and** consent of) the Director. If you run into a problem on the day of a performance, you are expected to contact the Director as soon as is possible.

Grading

Hard work and a positive attitude are necessary for musical and academic success in Band. Punctuality, cooperation, positivity and reliability are essential components of the curriculum in Rio Band. Due to the unique and collaborative nature of band classes, our grading system is a bit different than most other classes. Your academic grade is compiled from two **equal** parts:

1. **Quantitative measures**, such as scale tests, theory and ear-training, part-playing, etc.
2. **Qualitative measures**, such as attitude, cooperation, punctuality, attendance, and teamwork. In other words, do the things that are expected of all students, and you already have an 'A' for half of your grade!

Behavioral Expectations

Rio Band has a hard-earned and well-deserved reputation for musical excellence and exemplary behavior. All Rio Band students are expected to behave in a way that will further that tradition, in band classes, all other classes, and beyond.

In addition to Rio Americano and SJUSD rules and policies, the following Rio Band policies will govern behavior and consequences for students at all times while representing Rio Band, Rio Americano Band Boosters **OR** Rio Americano High School. This includes **any time** a student is on the Rio campus or at **any** Rio event (band or non-band, on- or off-campus), **for any reason**.

Prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Violence, threatening, bullying or sexual harassment. This applies to direct interactions, as well as those on-line.

- Drug, alcohol or other illegal substance use OR possession
- Vaping of any kind
- Theft or vandalism
- Abuse of instruments
- Leaving campus or established (verbally or in writing) boundaries without explicit Director authorization at any time during any band classes or events
- Any inappropriate posts or on-line activity on any Rio- related web page, or while representing yourself as a Rio student
- Inappropriate, foul, sexually explicit or bigoted language
- Bullying or harassment

Any violations of the above guidelines, or any school suspension, may result in one or more of the following consequences:

- Parent conference
- Referral to school administration
- Class suspension: administrative or in-house
- Loss of performance privileges
- Loss of rehearsal privileges (alternate assignment given)
- Demotion from band placement or chairing
- Loss of travel privileges
- Recommendation for removal from one or more band classes
- Recommendation for removal from the band program

Consequences implemented will depend on the severity of the infraction.

TRAVEL

Transportation to Performances- Transportation for Honors Concert Band is provided to and from Graduation. Families are responsible for transportation to all other band events.

Off-Campus Rio Band activities may include, but are not limited to:

Pep Band at football games (Del Campo HS)

School visitations- local elementary and middle schools, **Middle School tour**

SJUSD Concerts/ joint concerts w/ other schools

Honor Bands- American River College, All-State Ensembles, CMEA Capitol Section, CBDA Nor-Cal, Grammy Band, Young Arts

Student-run Gigs- District events, Charity events, Private events

Media events- Radio/TV/Web interviews and/ or performances

Festivals: Charles Mingus (NYC), Essentially Ellington Festival (NYC), Folsom Jazz Festival, Monterey Jazz Festival, Monterey Jazz Festival's Next Generation Competition, Santa Cruz Jazz Festival, Sacramento State University Winter Jazz Festival, Sonoma State Wind Band Festival, STJS Traditional Jazz Festival, UOP Concert Band Festival, Golden Empire Solo, Ensemble and Band Festivals, Woodcreek Jazz Festival, and others as announced.

Some Rio bands travel for performances locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. These trips are a privilege, based on hard work, talent and character. Any students with behavioral issues (as determined by the Directors) will not be allowed to travel with Rio Band, and refunds for payments made may not be available. This determination will be made solely by the Directors.

Financial assistance and scholarships are available for most travel opportunities. Recipients must be in good standing, academically and behaviorally to receive assistance. See the Directors for information or an application. Please be aware that scholarship awards come from RABB's general fund, and are awarded entirely on the basis of need, rather than musical merit.

To provide some financial assistance for international travel, students are able to bank 50% of the money they raise for Playathon in the year of travel, as well as the year prior to travel. RABB will keep track of each student's account. This money can be used only toward the final payment for international travel, and is not transferrable to other students, including family members.

Our international travel, which tends to occur every two years, is not under the auspices of, or sponsored by San Juan Unified School District. RABB is the sponsoring organization for these trips. Students in (or eligible for) Honors Concert Band and AM Jazz Ensemble may be eligible to travel internationally, at the discretion of the

Directors. Those eligible and interested in traveling with us are **strongly** recommended to enroll in HCB during the school-travel year, as this is the primary performing group.

We run a very tight ship during our travel, and all of our students are expected to be cooperative, on time, and positive at all times. Failure to abide by stated or written guidelines may result in the student being excluded from selected activities, and in extreme cases, being sent home at parent expense, with no refund.

Past travel has brought us across California, as well as to New York City, Japan (twice), China, Australia, Argentina, Spain, Italy and Ireland. Rio Band explores the world!

CONCERT BAND

Our Concert Bands are the heart of the Rio Band Program. All band students participate in Concert Band for at least two years, and these groups are where most of our theory

and ear training are taught. Additionally, the large group setting of Concert Bands is ideal for creating band bonding and the spirit of family for which Rio Band is known.

New Students to Concert Band

Virtually all new students to the Rio Band program will be enrolled in either Advanced Concert Band or Intermediate Concert Band, both of which are taught during the same class period. During the first weeks of school, these students will audition for placement into one of the classes. The audition may consist of **scales, a prepared piece, and sight reading**. Students will be placed into the group in which they will be most successful, without regard to past placement or current grade level. Once placed, students may re-audition at the Directors' discretion.

Returning Students in Concert Band

All students returning to the program will have been auditioned the previous spring to determine their preliminary placement for the current year. They are assigned to the band that most appropriately fits their ability and need (i.e., Intermediate Band, Advanced Concert Band, or Honors Concert Band), without consideration of grade level. During the first week of school, students will be chaired based on their performance in sight reading, an assigned excerpt, and scales. Once placed, students may re-audition at the Directors' discretion.

Concert Band Curriculum

Intermediate Concert Band (ICB)

Grade 1-3 literature

Scales in 2-3 keys- Chromatic, Major, Minor (Natural, Harmonic, Melodic), Modes, etc.

Ear training- rhythmic, melodic and interval dictation

Theory- Scales and key signatures, intervals, relative and parallel modes, transposition

Performances- Pep Band, Pops Concert, Playathon, Winter Concert, Spring Concert

Advanced Concert Band (ACB)

Same as ICB, plus: Grade 2-4 literature

Selected scales in all 12 keys, additional ear training and theory

Honors Concert Band (HCB)

Same as ICB and ACB, plus: Grade 3-6 literature

All scales in all 12 keys

Composition, counterpoint, harmonic analysis, chord progressions, Piano proficiency, conducting

Community service AND service to Rio Band

Additional performances- Chamber Groups night, Graduation, Concert Band Festivals as announced

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Jazz Ensemble Prerequisite

Students must be concurrently enrolled in a Concert Band or Small Ensemble (if eligible) to participate in a Jazz Band. There are many reasons for this rule-

- In order to have small jazz band classes, we must offset the numbers with large concert band classes.
- Essential theory and ear training concepts are only taught in concert bands.
- Concert bands are the heart of Rio Band. Everyone's presence is essential.

New Students to Jazz Band- Virtually all new Jazz students will be enrolled in FM Jazz Ensemble, where after a brief orientation period, they will be auditioned. The audition may consist of sight reading, scales, improvisation, a prepared piece, and other skills.

Returning Students to Jazz Band- Returning jazz students will audition in the spring to determine their preliminary placement for the fall, and they will be placed in either 0 period (AM and PM) or FM jazz. Some shifting may occur in the fall due to specific band needs and changing student abilities. Auditions may include any or all of the following: an assigned excerpt, a "call and response" exercise, sight reading and improvisation. Drummers are required to play swing, bebop, bossa, samba and other styles as requested. Students placed in zero period jazz will re-audition during the first week of school and then be placed into either the AM or PM or FM Jazz Ensemble. Re-auditions may occur at the semester or at the discretion of the directors.

Jazz Ensemble Curriculum

FM Jazz Ensemble (FM)-

Open to all Rio Band students, with Director approval

Soloing and Improvisation, Sight Reading, Jazz Styles and phrasing, Jazz history

Aural skills and transcription, Theory and Harmony, Ensemble rehearsal and arranging

Grade 1-3 literature

Regional travel is required

PM Jazz Ensemble (PM)- 0 period

Open to 10th-12th grade **returning** students, pending audition **and** Director approval

Same as FM, plus: Grade 2-5 literature

AM Jazz Ensemble (AM)- 0 period

Same as FM, PM, plus: Grade 2-6 literature

National travel may be required

SMALL ENSEMBLE

This one-of-a-kind course is for the advanced student who is interested in working independently or in small groups on selected music projects. Students may build a

combo or small ensemble of any style or instrumentation. They may work on composition or arranging. They may woodshed on a special presentation. They may develop a second or third instrument. The possibilities are limited only by one's musical imagination. There are numerous 'Smamble Nights' throughout the year, where the students show off their creativity and hard work. See the calendar for dates.

Who is eligible?

Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors who are taking a Concert band class or have already completed Honors Concert Band may be eligible for Small Ensemble, **with approval of the instructor. Small Ensemble is designed only to be a second band class for students, taken concurrently with a concert band or jazz band (if Honors Concert Band has been successfully completed).**

Expectations/ Requirements:

Small Ensemble students are expected to work on musical projects every class period, and will have numerous projects in development at all times, so that there is always something to work on. It is the responsibility of each student to design their own musical path, and to work creatively and collaboratively to stretch their abilities and knowledge.

Small Ensemble is a student-centered class, and members will be working independently, without direct supervision from the instructor. As a result, they must be self-motivated, responsible, trustworthy and mature.

Students failing to work consistently and seriously, who leave campus or stated boundaries during class or who engage in behavior displaying a lack of responsibility or maturity may be removed from the class, and egregious instances may result in removal from the band program entirely. See Rio Band behavioral guidelines for further information.

PEP BAND

The Rio Americano Pep Band provides an opportunity for ALL members of the band program to perform fun, exciting music while supporting the school community and athletic events.

Pep Band will perform at selected home games for Varsity Football and Varsity Boys & Girls Basketball. All band students will perform at selected football games, and 50% of band members will perform at each scheduled basketball game. Basketball game dates will be released later in the year. Please plan accordingly.

Pep Band members should wear a 'Rio Americano' shirt to each event; a green/gold colored shirt is an acceptable substitute (school colors).

Behavioral Expectations:

- Represent RIO BAND with pride, provide positive support and have fun!
- Snack and Bathroom breaks are available. Always check with the directors before leaving the group
- Be responsible for all of the music; memorize or bring sheet music
- No music during game play
- All students are expected to help with set up and tear down of equipment

Attendance Policy:

- All scheduled events are required performances
- A substitute player is required for absences from basketball games
- Arrive 1 hour before each event for setup and roll call
- Plan to stay for the full duration of the event, including tear-down

Home basketball games are played at Rio.

**Home football games are played at Del Campo High School-
4925 Dewey Dr, Fair Oaks**

Transportation to and from games is the responsibility of parents

Combos and Gigs

Combos are student-organized and student-run groups. There is no limit to the number of combos at Rio. Some combos will perform at selected jazz festivals, and some will be hired out for paying or charity gigs in the community. Clients frequently call us for small groups to play music for an event. 25% of the money goes to RABB and the rest is divided among the players. To become a certified combo eligible for gigs, the students need to develop appropriate repertoire and demonstrate professionalism in handling organizational details regarding the client and the gig. Gigs are distributed at the discretion of the Directors. Here are important guidelines for playing a student gig:

Before the gig:

1. Always return phone messages or emails within 24 hours.
2. Don't make promises you can't keep. If you aren't sure about any part of the gig (time, date, personnel), let the client know that you will find out more information and get back to them quickly. Then do so. Do not procrastinate.
3. Agree on date, times, fee, and specific needs of the client beforehand.
3. Get firm commitments from sidepeople (players other than the leader).
4. Use and maintain a personal calendar. Time management is an essential skill.
5. Once you have accepted a gig (as leader or sideperson), you are responsible for it! If you are unable to play the gig, you must find a suitable replacement (someone who is as good or better than you). If necessary, you may need to pay someone to cover for you. Have contact information for other players on the gig, in case of emergency.

At the gig:

1. Always arrive early. Figure out the time it will take to be ready to play, then add 15-30 minutes. You don't want to be rushed. It will affect your playing. NEVER be late!
2. Dress appropriately for the gig. Your audience judges you by your appearance.
3. Always be over-prepared. Bring anything you might need (mic & cord, music stand, stand light, amp, fake books), and extras of your staples (reeds, oil, strings, cords, etc.)
4. Set up quietly. Don't play unless you must. No practicing.
5. Play tunes that you know, and are comfortable with. Keep solos brief.
6. Keep the time between tunes to a minimum. Try to call two or three tunes at once, or call the next one when a tune is winding down. Don't argue on stage, ever.
7. Watch your volume. Most bands are too loud for the gig.
8. Be accommodating and gracious at all times.

After the gig:

1. Pack up quickly, and thank the client for hiring you.
2. All checks should be made out to RABB. Fill out the gig reimbursement form, and submit it, along with the check, to the RABB treasurer for disbursement.

Helpful Information

Chairing and Placement-

Our goal is to place every student in the band which will best serve them, while preserving the necessary instrumentation of each group. Chairing and placement are 100% the decisions of the Directors, and no outside input will be considered.

Things that affect placement and chairing- Sight-reading, tone, time, theory, scales, improvisation (in jazz), attitude, punctuality and cooperation.

Things that do NOT affect placement and chairing- previous placement or chairing, private teacher recommendations, grade level (except freshmen), parental involvement in or donations to RABB, parental pressure, or ANYTHING else not mentioned above.

Assistant Directors- These student leaders are elected by the band members to represent them, occasionally conduct them, and assist the band directors with a variety of activities and responsibilities. It is an important leadership role and liaison for all band news, decisions, and communications.

Awards- At the Spring Concert each year, we hand out awards. These awards are voted on by the members of each band, and approved by the Directors.

Within each band, individual students are recognized as:

Most Improved, Esprit de Corps (most spirited), Hardest Working and MVP

Selected seniors are recognized with established national awards:

James Brown Award (excellence in Pop music)

Patrick S. Gilmore Award (most versatile, omnipresent)

Louis Armstrong Award (excellence in jazz)

John Philip Sousa Award (excellence in concert band music, leadership)

Additionally, The Directors' Award recognizes the student(s), of any grade who has made the greatest overall contribution to Rio Band.

Senior Award and Directors' Award recipients are included on perpetual plaques in the band room, and become part of the permanent history of Rio Band.

Band Room Hours- The Band Rooms are usually open from 6:45 AM to 4:00 PM (3pm on Thursdays) and are generally accessible for your needs. There is an "open door" policy regarding office hours, so "drop-ins" are welcome. Students are expected to be responsible at all times and to care for the Band Rooms as well as their contents.

Dress Code- To ensure that the band has a professional appearance, please observe the dress code for certain performances, as follows:

Festivals, Dinner Dance, Winter Concert and other events as announced:

Dark Dress Shoes. No tennis shoes, vans, sandals, etc.

Black, dark brown or dark blue suits:

Bottoms (dress slacks or skirts), white tops, ties (any color). Jackets may be required.

OR

Dark dresses, skirts or slacks with blouses. Dresses must be WELL below the knee.

Shoulders must be covered.

Dark Dress Shoes. No tennis shoes, vans, sandals, etc.

Rental Instruments

A limited number and variety of school instruments are available, free of charge, to students in need. An Instrument Rental Agreement form must be completed and returned before beginning use. After use, the instruments are to be returned, thoroughly cleaned and repaired, with the cases free of personal items. Please review proper care instructions for your instrument and/or have it handled by a professional. All repairs and cleaning costs are to be assumed by the individual in possession of the instrument. An encumbrance will be placed on the student account for the estimated value of lost, stolen or unreturned instruments.

Instrument Storage- Nearly all instruments will be stored in lockers, within our instrument storage room. Students and their families assume all responsibility for the safety and security of their instruments. Students must provide their own locks.

Online Communication and Activity- Student run groups and forums on social media are useful for communicating information regarding band events and bonding activities. The activity within these groups must adhere to the behavioral policies explained in this handbook. Students will be held accountable for any activity deemed inappropriate by these or any other school guidelines. The Directors and RABB are not responsible for the content of these forums.

Percussionists' Equipment- Just as wind players have equipment and accessories associated with their instruments, percussionists are required to have their own tools for performance in band. **Each** percussionist should have his/her own sticks, brushes (if in jazz), yarn mallets, plastic mallets, and timpani mallets. These items are available at most music stores. Shared instruments provided by RIO BAND must be stored and cared for by the members of the percussion section. Any damaged or broken instruments should be brought to the attention of the Directors for repair or replacement.

Photos of Students/Opt Out Requests- Unless notified in writing of an objection by a parent, legal guardian, or student of age 18, photographs and videos of students and/or names may be posted in school, in RABB produced materials and by local and national media. Please be aware that opt-out requests are valid for the current school year and must be renewed at the start of the next school year.

Scholarships- No student's education in Rio Band should be hampered by financial constraints. If any of the expenses of daily participation in Rio Band prove to be a hardship, contact a Director, and RABB will do what we can to help out. RABB also has limited need-based financial aid available for travel assistance.

Sheet Music- Sheet music distributed in each class is the property of Rio Band. Use the disposable music folders to keep your music clean and neat; please keep school music in these folders only. Students will return all sheet music to the directors during in-class collection days. Replacement of lost or damaged sheet music will be the financial responsibility of the student.

String Bass- Upright Bases will be provided for students' in-school use. Each individual is responsible for having his/her own bow, proper daily storage, cleaning wood surfaces, swabbing and detuning strings before long-term storage.

Website- On-line Rio Band information: EVERYTHING you want or need to know, including the RABB Handbook, RABB bylaws... PLUS *recordings, photos and fun, interesting* stuff!

Check it out: rioband.net

PLAYATHON!

This year's Playathon will begin at 7 AM on Friday, November 8th and continue until midnight. It will take place in and around Rio's new Theater!

Playathon is a Rio Band tradition dating to 1981. It is our main fundraiser, a concert featuring all of our groups and a major community event. We perform for the public and reach out to our feeder elementary and middle schools. The money we raise buys music, instruments, supplies, provides travel opportunities, and generally allows the Rio Band to continue as a first-rate program. Basically, it's a blast for all!

Pledge Parties are voluntary, organized fundraising activities for students to promote the Band Program, publicize Playathon and canvas local neighborhoods for donations. All students are strongly encouraged to participate in pledge parties to help raise funds for the general program. New students are grouped with those who have participated in past years. Donations received during Pledge Parties are credited equally among all participants. Several Pledge Party dates offer flexibility to students, so that most students will be able to fit a date into their schedules.

Playathon is a musical marathon in which all Rio Band students participate. Playathon is open to the entire school body and the community. Our groups perform for their peers and Rio Staff members during the school day. Feeder elementary and middle school band students are invited to play along with the Rio bands in the afternoon. Parents are encouraged to attend the evening concert, featuring all of Rio's concert and jazz bands, and the late night dance with live student bands is always popular. Food is provided for band students, and parent chaperones supervise the students throughout the entire Playathon. A security guard is on campus during the dance. Specific themes and activities are developed year-to-year so that every year's event is unique.

Students and parent volunteers are needed to chair the committees which make Playathon happen. Committee chair positions include decorations, pledge nights, chaperones, cleanup, badges, finance/check-in, snacks, publicity, lunch, dinner, dance pizza, and Playathon program. Parent chairs/volunteers are needed to assist, advise, and support the efforts of the student chairs/volunteers. Volunteer families also are needed as host families for pledge parties.

Playathon attendance is mandatory for all band students.

Playathon is an important bonding experience for the students, and a major concert. If a student has to be away for any amount of time, please obtain the directors' permission at least one week in advance (preferably MUCH earlier) and **bring a note from home** stating the reason for and times of absence so we know where everyone is at all times.

DINNER DANCE

The **Rio/Arden Dinner Dance** provides the opportunity to dine and dance to some of the best sounds in Sacramento. Arden's Jazz Band, Rio's Jazz Ensembles, and Combo groups from both schools play their hearts out for the enjoyment of all in attendance. Through the generous donations of local music stores, other businesses and the community at large, we are able to obtain quality items for a raffle and a silent auction. ***ALL PROCEEDS RAISED FROM THIS EVENT BENEFIT ALL BAND PROGRAMS AT BOTH SCHOOLS.*** All band students benefit, and all attendees—concert, jazz, and non-band—have a marvelous time.

The Dinner Dance is made possible by the involvement of parents, the support of the band directors, and the outstanding musical ability of the band members. Many committees are formed to plan and organize this grand affair: Raffle, Decorations, Publicity, Adult Food, Student Food, Adult Beverage, Chaperones, and Clean-up. Anyone who has attended the Dinner Dance in the past can tell you what a magnificent event this has become. All band families are encouraged to participate, and the community at large is invited to attend.