

Richardson High School Band

Honors Band 2024-2025



Students wishing to enroll in Honors Band must have permission from a parent/guardian to participate in this program. Please read the requirements for Honors Band on the attached handout. If you agree to the requirements and wish to participate, please sign below and return this form by Friday, August 23. Your director will work with the counselors to change your course number, and you will receive 5 additional points on your semester grade.

Once enrolled in Honors Band, you may not drop the course. The work must be turned in, or the student's final semester grade will be lowered 5 points accordingly to account for the +5 points for Honors Credit.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Honors Band Assignment Due Dates:

12/12/24 & 12/14/24 - All-Region Auditions

2/22/25 - RISD Chamber Music Festival

12/11/23 - Performance Critiques 1 & 2

5/12/25 - Performance Critiques 3 & 4

12/11/23 - Research Paper 1

5/12/25 - Research Paper 2

I have read the Honors Band Credit Requirements and agree to the terms.

Student Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Honors Credit

- *Students in grades 9-12 are able to earn Honors credit in Band, Choir and Orchestra. The Honors student must be committed to developing individual academic and musical skills and be disciplined with expectations to deadlines. The goal of this rigorous Honors program is to challenge outstanding students to improve their individual musical skills at a high level and have a positive impact on the student's overall grade point average.*
- *Students must enroll in Honors Band, Choir and Orchestra at the beginning of each semester. In accordance with RISD Guidelines, students have 15 days from the first day of each semester to decide whether to stay enrolled in the Honors Course and complete all requirements or drop it and enroll in Regular Band, Choir and Orchestra. At the end of the semester, students earning a passing grade in Honors Band, Choir and Orchestra shall receive 5 additional quality points in the GPA/Rank.*
 - *Band, Choir and Orchestra students who wish to enroll in the Honors program, must have a minimum average grade of 80 in previous Band, Choir and Orchestra classes, show potential for completing the requirements for Honors courses and be recommended by their director. The final determination for admittance to the Honors program rests with the director.*
 - *The focus of Honors Band, Choir and Orchestra is the development of independent musicianship in contrast to Regular Band, Choir and Orchestra where the focus is on large group performance with a conductor. The expectations of the Honors courses will be at higher levels of expertise, confidence, performance and skill development in order for participating students to be independent musicians functioning as soloists and chamber music participants. Research projects and work with music theory will enable the Honors student to be a more knowledgeable, well-rounded musician.*
 - *Honors Band, Choir and Orchestra exceed the requirements of Regular Band, Choir and Orchestra by requiring additional work outside the classroom as described under Grading Guidelines in Music. The student enrolled in the Honors course must fulfill the curriculum for the Regular Band, Choir and Orchestra classes at an advanced level plus the rigorous Honors course requirements. The director will communicate specific requirements and deadlines at the beginning of each semester. The Honors student must:*
 - ❑ *Exhibit an advanced level of participation, skills, fundamentals and performance.*
 - ❑ *Attend two professional performances or other performances approved in advance by the director each semester in the student's respective Honors area. Documentation of these performances will include a program and a minimum two page critique of each performance. The paper must be typed 12 point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced and must reflect the writing quality, content, and construction expected of an Honors student.*
 - ❑ *Prepare all of the TMEA All Region audition materials during the fall.*
 - ❑ *Audition for All Region during the fall unless waived by director.*
 - ❑ *Complete a research paper each semester on a topic approved by the director. The paper must be a minimum of six pages typed 12 point, Times New Roman font, double spaced, and include a work-cited page. A minimum of three sources is required. The paper must reflect the writing quality, content, and construction expected of an Honors student.*

- Participate in the Richardson Chamber Music Festival and/or UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest as a solo performer.*
- *The student, with director approval, may choose one of the following as an alternative to the research paper for one semester only.*
 - Complete individual music theory projects as assigned using the music computer lab.*
 - Compose an original piece of music – length and content to be approved by the director.*