

Days, Times and Rooms	Tuesday/Thursday 1:50-2:40pm Room 705
Teacher Contact	James Walters Office Room 600 phone 909-793-1000 ext. 600 email jwalters@redlandsacademy.org (best option)
Websites	raabells.weebly.com Click on the Soundwave link for our performance schedule and other information. Please check for updates throughout the year. www.redlandsacademy.org Click on the Music link. RenWeb www.renweb.com Login to see your grades in this and other classes.

Prerequisites	8th Grade Handbell Ensemble is open to students in grade 8 who have played handbells before or who demonstrate the ability to read music and quickly master basic ringing technique. We can accommodate 14-20 ringers.
Goals and Expectations	Our first goal is to prepare to ring in concerts and at the Junior High Handbell Festival. Another goal is to prepare our 8th grade ringers for our High School ensembles, Subito and Bellissimo. We aim to be proficient in music and ringing skills up to Level 3, and 4. Our rehearsal time is valuable—students should be on time and ready to put 100% effort into each rehearsal. All students are expected to help set up and break down our equipment after performances. We need parents to help move equipment and students for some performances away from RAA. Music, exercises, theory handouts and quizzes are chosen to teach, rehearse and assess student proficiency in all handbell techniques of Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4.
Skills	Level 1 - No bell changes, only quarter, half and whole notes, only 4/4, 3/4, and 2/4 meter, only bell articulations that do not require the bell to leave the hand, slow to moderate tempo. Level 2 - Everything from level one plus, cut time, 3/2 and simple mixed meter, eighth notes and dotted quarter followed by an eighth, pick up notes, PL, Mart-lift, malleting, a limited number of bell changes - with adequate preparation time, two different dynamic levels at the same time, slow to moderate tempo. Level 3 - Everything from levels one and two plus: 6/8, 3/4 (with one pulse per measure), 3/8, 9/8, 12/8 and 6/4, sixteenth notes, triplets, syncopation (not extreme), moderate number of bell changes, a combination of techniques - but not more than two per measure, more variety in dynamics and accents, slow to fast tempo with some changes within the piece.

Level 4 – Everything from levels one, two and three plus: mixed meters, faster tempi, triplets over two beats, more complex syncopation, brush damp, extensive number of bell changes per ringer, more shifts of dynamic levels, more changes of tempo.

Performances

We will perform on the major concerts listed below. Other performances, some during the school day, some outside of school, will be listed on the Handbells web site, in emails, the RAA Email Newsletter and in notes given to students to take home.

Wednesday	October 9	7pm	Fall Concert
Sabbath	October 10	morning	Mission Road SDA Church
Monday	December 16	7pm	Jr. High Christmas Concert
Thursday	February 13	all day	Intermediate Handbell Festival
Sabbath	February 29	morning	Redlands SDA Church
Wednesday	April 1	7pm	Spring Ring
Monday	May 11	7pm	Spring Concert
Thursday	June 4	6pm	8 th Grade Graduation

A handbell ensemble depends on the ringing of each member. Attendance at all performances is expected and is a part of each student’s grade. Please contact James Walters as soon as possible in the event of a scheduling conflict.

Concert Attire

Black and white concert clothes

Grading

Grades are based on three criteria:

- 40% of your grade is based on participation in rehearsals. Students are expected to be on time to rehearsals and to demonstrate respect and effort.
- 20% of your grade is based on theory assignments and tests.
- 40% of your grade is based on participation in performances. This includes being properly dressed, being on time, and being prepared. All members of Soundwave are equally important for an excellent performance.

Everyone can earn an A. Be on time, be prepared to work hard, and be prepared to ring excellent performances.
Best wishes for a great year!