

KARNS MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

2925 Gray Hendrix Road Knoxville, TN 37931

(865) 539-7732 (865) 539-7745 fax

Mark Bowling, Director

mark.bowling@knoxschools.org

Erin Bray, Assistant Director

erin.bray@knoxschools.org

2020-2021 Band Syllabus

A Note from the Directors:

Welcome to the KMS band! The purpose of this syllabus is to help you better understand the expectations and activities involved with our middle school band program. Take a minute to go over all the information in the syllabus and fill out the accompanying form for our records so that we can better serve you and your student. Please return this form, signed, by 8/28/19.

We are extremely proud of the students and band program at KMS and realize that it takes an intentional effort on the part of the students and families to maintain the pride and dedication needed for a truly outstanding band program. We look forward to an exciting year, and with your student's dedication and your continued support, this year can be great! Please do not hesitate to call or email us if you ever have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mr. Bowling and Ms. Bray

I. Course Outcome:

Throughout a student's three years in the band program at KMS, it is our goal that they become a proficient musician, ready to make an immediate, positive contribution in a high school ensemble. This goal is achieved by adhering to the local curriculum guide, which also relates directly to the state and national music standards.

II. Instruction:

1. Fees (All applicable fees are due by September 4)

These fees are different than those for academic classes and should be paid to the KMS Band

a. Participation Fee \$35.00

Students who qualify for reduced lunch may reduce this fee to \$17.00, and the fee is waived for students who qualify for free lunch. Fees may be paid online with a credit card at the KMS website. Please note there is a 4% processing fee for using a credit card. This is in addition to the fee total.

b. School Owned Instrument Rental Fee: \$50 for the year. (\$50 due by September 4) (NOT subject to fee reduction/waiver)

If paying with a check, please submit a separate check for **each fee**. All checks should be made out to **KMS Band**.

2. Required Books and Music:

6th Grade: **Essential Elements, Book 1**

7th and 8th Grades: **Foundations for Superior Performance**

These books can be obtained locally at Rush's Music, Lunsford's Music, and Lane's Music.

III. Classroom Rules and Expectations:

Rules:

1. Respect yourself and others along with their property
2. Masks must be worn at all times
3. Students must maintain appropriate social distancing at all times
4. Keep hands and feet to yourself at all times
5. No food, drink (water is acceptable) candy, gum, is allowed in the band room

Expectations:

1. Have your instrument and materials present and in good playing condition for every class. Failure to have items in class will result in a reduction of the student's weekly participation grade. Chronic problems with this could ultimately result in removal from the band program.
2. All students are to enter the room in an orderly fashion and be seated with their instrument, music, etc. at the scheduled start of class. If you are not in your seat with your instrument ready to play three (3) minutes after the scheduled start of class, you will be marked tardy. If a teacher holds a student after class and causes the student to be late, the student must get a written note from the teacher **prior to entering the band room**.

3. Students are not to talk, make noise, or play instruments without the expressed permission of the director during class. Disruptions will not be tolerated. Violations in this area will result in disciplinary action. If a teacher has to stop class in order to discipline a student for any reason, this will result in a teacher/student conference at the end of class. Subsequent infractions will be entered into the school's discipline log.
4. The instrument storage rooms are off limits until further notice
5. There is no hanging out" in the music suite in the mornings.

IV. Performance/Concert Uniform:

The KMS band will perform **in black pants/skirt, white top (no tie), and tennis shoes**. Parents are responsible for purchasing all parts of the uniform. Students must be in uniform in order to perform with the band.

V. School Owned Instruments:

Instrument care is the responsibility of the student once an instrument has been assigned. There is a maintenance fee of **\$50 per year** (due 8/28) to use a school owned instrument. This covers normal wear and tear of the instrument, case, and parts. **Any damage found above and beyond normal wear and tear is the responsibility of the student and parent.** Understand that if you play a school owned instrument, you need to purchase a mouthpiece/reed, oil, grease, etc. to maintain the instrument. Please fill out and return the School Instrument Rental Agreement.

7th and 8th grade Percussionists: Take your sticks and mallets every day from class in the stick bag. Sticks and mallets that are left in the band room are often broken and lost.

VI. Instrument Storage Etiquette:

Instruments and folders are to be stored in the proper cubby during the day. Cases are to be upright and latched with your instrument in them. You need to **take your instrument home with you after school every day**. You cannot prepare for class if you leave your instrument at school! Neither can you get your daily practice time in. Stickers and tags should identify your personal instrument (not school owned). Also, make sure **your name is in your book (in ink)** as these are often left in the band room. Students who share a school-owned instrument should remove their personal mouthpiece, etc. from the case at the end of each class.

Personal items should not be left in the instrument storage rooms! KMS accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen property.

VII. Grading:

Grades will fall into two categories, "Tests" and "Weekly Participation". Grades for a 9-week period will be given equal weight.

Level-ups (Tests) (60%):

Each student will be heard individually 3 to 5 times per nine week grading period. These "level-ups" will be very short exercises or selections from their current concert music. The due dates for level-ups will be announced at least a week in advance. If a student is not prepared on the day of the level-up or chooses to

not play, they will be given a 0 until they have played the material for one of the directors. Should a student not be satisfied with a level-up grade, **they will have unlimited opportunities within the current 9 weeks to retest and replace that grade.** All playing tests will be submitted online.

Tests and assessments (60%)

Written and playing tests will be given on a regular basis. Students will have unlimited attempts on all assessments. Playing assessment will be conducted through an online, recording-based system.

Weekly Participation (40%):

This component of the grading system is determined by a student's ability to fully participate in class each day. Students will begin each week with a 100 for their grade. Should they not be prepared or choose to not participate in the lesson, their weekly grade will be lowered by a proportional number of points (100 points/number of instructional days that week).

IX. Bands and other Performance Opportunities:

Concert Band:

This is the term that will be used for the groups performing at the winter and spring concerts. All 6th, 7th, and 8th, grade band students will perform in these groups. This is their required performing ensemble.

Jazz Band:

Jazz Band will be formed and rehearse ONLY IF Knox County Schools is on condition GREEN.

ETSBOA Jr. Clinic:

Eligibility for Jr. Clinic will be determined once Knox County Schools is on condition GREEN.

Knox County Middle School Honor Band:

Eligibility for Jr. Clinic will be determined once Knox County Schools is on condition GREEN.

KMS Percussion Ensemble:

Percussion Ensemble will be formed and rehearse ONLY IF Knox County Schools is on condition GREEN

XI. Recommended Instruments:

Instruments come in all shapes, sizes, and varying degrees of quality. If you would like your student to have a good quality horn that will make a better sound, provide a more satisfying experience in band, and spend less time with their instrument in the shop, a higher quality instrument can provide that experience. Therefore, if you are looking into buying an instrument for your student, there are several brands that are reputable and recommended. Here is a list of instruments and brands that are recommended for purchase:

Flute: Gemeinhardt, Bundy, Jupiter, Armstrong, Yamaha, Eastman

Clarinet: Selmer, Bundy, LeBlanc, Buffet, Yamaha, Armstrong

Saxophone: Selmer, Yamaha, Jupiter, Bundy

French Horn: Please consult Mr. Bowling directly if planning to purchase or rent a french horn.

Trumpet: Bach, Bundy, Getzen, Holton, Jupiter, Yamaha, Conn, Blessing, King, Eastman

Trombone: Bach, Yamaha, Conn, King, Jupiter, Getzen, Holton, Eastman

Baritone: Please consult Mr. Bowling directly if planning to purchase/rent a baritone.

Percussionist in 6th grade will rent bell kits that have bells and a drum-pad included. In 7th and 8th grade, they will play on school owned equipment, but will be responsible for providing their own sticks and mallets. All 7th and 8th grade percussionist should own the following mallets and sticks:

Stick bag, concert snare drum sticks, hard plastic rubber mallets, soft yarn mallets, timpani mallets.

These items can be purchased locally at Rush's Music, Lunsford's Music, or Lane's Music. They can also be bought online at places like steveweissmusic.com, or wwbw.com.

XI. Communication:

The KMS Band program utilizes three means of communication and information dissemination. They are listed below in order of importance.

Website (www.kmsband.org)

The KMS Band website is intended to be the primary place to go for all band related information. Please check the website often for forms, postings, and calendar updates. There is also a way to register to receive and email when new information is posted.

Remind

Remind is a free messaging service that is used by the band to send important information to specific groups of people. For example, we may send a reminder to the members of the Jazz Band about an upcoming performance. These messages are either sent to your phone as a text message or sent to your email. Instructions for signing up for Remind are available on the KMS Band website. Please register for all groups in which your child participates.

Email

Email is used by the KMS Band to send information to large groups of people. For example, we may send out and email to the entire Band program regarding the Spring Concert.

XII. Fundraisers and Donations

Each year, the Band program has two fundraisers (fall and spring) to help pay for the annual operating costs of the program. Given the level of funding from Knox County Schools (\$500 annually), student and parent participation in the fundraisers is vital to the program. Many items such as music, supplemental instruction, equipment, and supplies are directly tied to monies raised through the annual fundraisers.

Monetary donations to the Band are the most efficient way to help the Band and are always welcome. All donations should be made to Karns Middle School and be designated for use with the KMS Band. All donations are tax deductible. Should you or someone you know like to donate to the program, please contact Mr. Bowling so that he can get you the proper documentation for your taxes.

Parents and students, please print and sign the forms below and return it to Mr. Bowling or Ms. Bray by August 28th.

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**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR PAYMENT TO MR.
BOWLING OR MS. BRAY BY AUGUST 28**

*We have read the KMS Band Handbook. We have been made aware of the high expectations and behavioral standards established for participation in this program. We also understand the grading policy and requirements and that Band, although an elective, is a full year commitment. Lastly, we understand that the **band fee of \$35 is due by September 4th**. In addition, if you are using a school instrument, **the school instrument fee of \$50 is due by September 4th**.*

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Students who receive free or reduced lunch are eligible for a fee waiver or reduction (**the flat \$35 band fee only**). Please check one of the following:

_____ My student **does not** qualify for a waiver of this fee.

_____ My student qualifies for a reduction of the fee.

_____ My child **does** qualify for a waiver of this fee.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

*****Please Note*****

If paying with checks, please submit a separate check for each fee (Band, Instrument Rental). This allows the KMS bookkeeper and me to account for your payments more accurately. If paying with cash, please make sure that your student receives a receipt.

