

# THE KENNEDALE HIGH SCHOOL WILDCAT BAND HANDBOOK 2022-23

REVISED 6/1/22

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**Kennedale HS Band Web Page**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	3
KHS Band Philosophy .....	3
Summer Band.....	3
Performing Groups.....	4
Classroom Policies.....	7
Discipline .....	9
KISD Prohibited Conduct Rules.....	10
Drug testing.....	12
Grading Policy .....	13
Supplies and Equipment .....	13
Facilities .....	14
Marching Band.....	15
Uniforms and Dress Code for Stage Performances .....	16
Inspection.....	18
Band Travel.....	18
Individual Improvement.....	20
Parental Help.....	21
Performances/ Rehearsals/ Calendars .....	21
State and District Guidelines .....	22
Band Letter Jacket Policy .....	23
Signature Form.....	25
Letter Jacket Points Worksheet.....	Available On Request

# INTRODUCTION

This handbook has been written for the Kennedale High School Wildcat Band members and their parents with the intent of providing information regarding the purpose, procedures, expectations, and activities of the KHS band program. All band students and their parents are expected to read the entire handbook and be familiar with its contents. Communication between parties will be a major factor in our success and will also help to avoid conflicts with the policies stated herein.

## KHS BAND PHILOSOPHY OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

A well rounded education is enhanced by one of the most basic of all studies...the study of music. Music teaches discipline, develops self-confidence, and gives each student a feeling of pride and accomplishment. Playing in band teaches students the importance of working with others and helps them develop the social skills necessary to be part of a performing organization. Instrumental music engages students in a group activity which allows them to use their free time constructively. Band instills values: responsibility, purpose, direction, devotion to duty, spirit of cooperation, and a sense of family. Not all band students become great musicians, but certainly all become more mature, cooperative, self-disciplined, hard working members of society with an appreciation of the arts. Music is a subject which affects all sides of a student's personality: This includes the intellectual, physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual, and social aspects of an individual.

**Discipline, pride, and commitment to excellence** are important elements of a quality organization. Every part of our students' participation in the KHS Band must contain these three elements. These elements are our backbone and make us what we are...the Wildcat Band. As we continue a tradition of superior performances, we believe that external discipline creates internal discipline which the students demonstrate on their own. We hope our students will have a desire to succeed in what they do and enjoy working towards a positive goal. Through mutual respect and pride in themselves, we hope to give our students a firm footing on which they can be successful not only in music, but also in life.

## SUMMER BAND

The KHS Wildcat Band practices in the summer before school begins. This practice time is known as "Summer Band". **All Students Who Expect To Be Enrolled In The Band Program For A Fall Semester Are Required To Attend All Days Scheduled For Summer Band For The Summer Directly Prior To The Fall Semester They Are To Be Enrolled. Any incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Who Does Not Attend Summer Band For Unexcused Reasons Will Not BE Allowed To Enroll In The KHS Band Program For That School Year. Any 10,11, 12 Grade Student Who Had Been Enrolled in the KHS Band Program for the Previous Year Who Does Not Attend Summer Band For Unexcused Reasons Will Not BE Allowed To Enroll In The KHS Band Program for the Remainder of their HS Years...** At the discretion of the Director of Bands. After a student begins attending summer band, should they then have multiple unexcused absences from summer band rehearsals and performances, this student is subject to immediate dismissal from the program. Absences from specific summer band dates due to family vacations, church camps, weddings, illness, KHS Football Team or KHS School Athletic participation, etc. are to be excused **IN ADVANCE** and **IN WRITING (Email is Satisfactory)** with the director of bands. These absences will be excused on a case by case basis and final judgment on these matters is the sole responsibility of the director of bands. Even upon being "excused" from rehearsals due to these circumstances, students may still be "assigned a different role" in the marching band due to lost rehearsal time.

If any student, regardless of classification, begins summer band activities, and then either they or their parents verbally/or in writing inform the director of bands that he/she is quitting the KHS Band Program, that student

will not be allowed to participate in the KHS Band Program for the remainder of their HS years per the guidelines discussed above.

It is the sole responsibility of the student to know the dates and times of SUMMER BAND and it is their sole responsibility to have their parent contact the director of bands and confirm that the director is aware of the conflict should conflicts arise.

## PERFORMING GROUPS

There are several performing groups under the umbrella of the Kennedale High School Band Program. Admission into and membership in each of these ensembles is either by audition or director approval only. All instrumental members of a concert band must participate in the marching band. **All students who are members of the band program must be enrolled in a band class during the school day (with the exception of WINTER GUARD). All members of all Concert Bands for the spring semester are required to participate in the Marching Band for the semester prior to the concert season they want to enroll.**

**Marching Band - All members of all concert bands are required to participate in the marching band program.** Exceptions may be made for Varsity Football members due to rehearsal time conflicts in the fall. The band performs at all varsity football games, pep rallies, many marching festivals, the UIL Marching Contest, community events, trips, recruiting concerts, and parades. There are different components of the marching band, including: drum majors, wind section, drum line, percussion front ensemble (or pit), and color guard. The marching band is physically demanding. In the fall semester, marching band counts as "P.E. Equivalent." Because of eligibility requirements and inevitable sickness or injury, it is important to have quite a few "alternates" or "shadows". Alternates are selected based on: performance of music, performance of marching fundamentals, past academic eligibility, lack of attendance (for any reason), and general abilities to comprehend and demonstrate marching band techniques. It is the goal of the directors to march as many students as possible. Of course, if a student has not been present or punctual to rehearsal, has not passed-off music, or in any way has failed to exhibit the skill sets needed to meet the minimum requirements of marching band, then this student would be more likely to be assigned as an alternate. Even though a student may be an alternate for a particular performance, he/she is still expected to be in attendance. These students may change their alternate status at any time of the season by improving on their skills and working their way into the marching show as spots become available. Members must be UIL Eligible and Meet All Requirements per the UIL Marching Band Physician's Physical Examination Requirements, as well as eligibility with the KISD Drug Testing Program. Members must Meet the UIL Requirements for Academic Eligibility per UIL Rules and Guidelines in order to PERFORM with the Band.

**Wind Ensemble - The Wind Ensemble is the top performing group at KHS. Admission to this group shall be by live audition only. Students will be placed in this group by permission of the Director of Bands Only.** A student's past performance, past eligibility status, past behavior, and current performance ability will all be factors in the decision to place a student in this group. Students who are enrolled in KHS for the fall semester, but who do not enroll and participate in the marching band in the Fall Semester, will not be allowed to be in the band program in the Spring Semester, unless prior approval is given by the Director of Bands. Members are expected to be proficient on their instruments and commit to the pursuit of excellence in the band program. The Wind Ensemble is the representative of the school for many functions throughout the year. This band will compete at several contests and festivals in the spring semester, they will also participate in recruiting and community events. Students will be required to attend after school sectionals and rehearsals throughout the semester. Also these members will have a 2 hour rehearsal every Monday Night from 6pm to 8pm during the Spring Semester until the UIL Contest. These students are expected to exhibit outstanding citizenship and not have reoccurring eligibility problems in order to maintain membership in this group. Top of the section players are expected to participate in all region auditions and solo and ensemble contests. Members of this group are required to attend KHS graduation exercises and a grade will be given for participation in this event.

**Symphonic Band** - This is the second of three concert groups. **Admission to this group shall be by live audition only. Students will be placed in this group by permission of the Band Directors Only.** Our Symphonic band will provide an opportunity for younger and less advanced performers to receive more appropriate instruction based on their needs and abilities. This group will compete at contests and competitions. Members are expected to be proficient on their instruments and commit to the pursuit of excellence in the band program. Students will be required to attend after school sectionals. For some performances throughout the year, students in the Symphonic band will be required to attend performances with the Wind Ensemble. Individuals may be asked to participate or (fill in) with the Wind Ensemble at specific events. These students are expected to exhibit outstanding citizenship and not have reoccurring eligibility problems in order to maintain membership in this group. Top of the section players are expected to participate in all region auditions and solo and ensemble contests. Some members of this group are required to attend KHS graduation exercises and a grade will be given for participation in this event.

**Concert Band** - This is the third of three concert groups. **Admission to this group shall be by live audition only. Students will be placed in this group by permission of the Band Director Only.** Our Concert band will provide an opportunity for younger and less advanced performers to receive more appropriate instruction based on their needs and abilities. This group will compete at contests and competitions. Members are expected to be proficient on their instruments and commit to the pursuit of excellence in the band program. Students will be required to attend a few after school sectionals. These students are expected to exhibit outstanding citizenship and not have reoccurring eligibility problems in order to maintain membership in this group.

**Drumline and Percussion Pit** - With the changes in marching band over the past twenty years, the drumline has taken on a very prominent role. Because of this, members of the drumline and percussion pit will have rehearsals in addition to the normal marching band practices, including weekly summer rehearsals and a mandatory drum camp in June and July. **Admission to this group shall be by live audition only. Students will be placed in this group by permission of the Band Director Only.** Auditions for the drumline will occur in the spring with students being assigned to snare drum, tenor drums, bass drum, cymbals, or the percussion pit. All members of the drumline and percussion pit must be enrolled in the band class specified for drumline in the fall. All Members of the "Battery" section have time and skill requirements of rehearsal and performance that are greater than those of the "Front Ensemble". Therefore, students are not allowed to audition for, or participate in, the "Battery", if they are also pursuing membership in: The KHS Football Team, Cross Country Team, the Drill Team, The Cheerleaders, or the Volleyball Team. These students are welcome to participate in the "Front Ensemble" group where requirements are less demanding of their time and commitment. All percussionists will receive an assignment for the marching band, but the auditions are also open to woodwind players with director approval. It is extremely important that the percussionists remain academically eligible; it is very difficult to cover for a missing snare, tenor, or bass drummer. The percussion pit "Front Ensemble" is the group of players who perform on the grounded percussion instruments on the front sideline. Though instrumentation will vary depending on the show, you can usually find timpani, bells, xylophone, vibraphone, marimba, chimes, suspended cymbals, concert bass drum, gong, and several trap instruments in the pit. Although these students do not "march" on a regular basis, they will be trained in some marching fundamentals and they are expected to demonstrate these skills.

**Color Guard** - The color guard is a selected group that performs with a variety of equipment including flags, props, and rifles. **Admission to this group shall be by live audition only. Students will be placed in this group by permission of the Band Directors Only.** The group is strongly oriented toward dance. This group has their own class period and all members must be enrolled in the class. Auditions for this group occur in the spring and are open to any student that will be enrolled at Kennedale HS for the coming school year. The color guard has many extra responsibilities including several additional rehearsals, additional expenses, standards of appearance, etc. The color guard is very physically demanding and may not be appropriate for students with chronic health problems. There is a set "Fee" for participation in the Guard and a set schedule of these fees is to

be adhered to. Those members of the color guard that are instrumentalists are expected to continue study on their instruments and are encouraged to study privately during the fall semester. Color Guard members are required to perform with the Marching Band at all performances throughout the School Year... including the Kennedale City Parade in April. (All Members of the Guard are expected to adhere to the policies and regulations as stated in the "Color Guard Audition Information Packet" made available at the time of the Spring Auditions.)

**Winter Guard** - The winter guard is a group of color guard members that wish to continue their practice of guard techniques in the winter. **Admission to this group shall be by live audition only. Students will be placed in this group by permission of the Band Directors Only.** Auditions for winter guard will be held in October-November each year. Practices begin in November with performances from January through March. The majority of funds to run the winter guard will come from the students alone. There is a set "Fee" for participation in the Guard and a set schedule of these fees is to be adhered to. The KISD band budget is not at a level where we can assist in this endeavor financially. Uniforms, props, entry fees, and the majority of equipment will be purchased by the students. The Band Program will donate some flag and rifle equipment towards this endeavor. Should we have a KHS Band Winter Guard, the group will be sponsored by the Band Program and the Band Directors. The Band Directors will have final approval on all decisions regarding this group. Should the existence of this group become a detriment to the band program itself, the directors have the ability to dissolve and disband the group at any time. There are additional expenses and travel involved for all members of this group. Rehearsals are after school and no band class time in the spring semester will be given for this group. Members of the winter guard are expected to make every practice and performance. The behaviors and actions of the Winter Guard members should reflect the standards and decorum of the Wildcat Band. Discipline problems within this group shall be considered discipline problems for the Band Program. (All Members of the Guard are expected to adhere to the policies and regulations as stated in the "Winter Guard Audition Information Packet" made available at the time of the Fall Auditions.)

**Indoor Drumline** - The Indoor Drumline is a group of members that wish to continue their techniques of Drumline in the winter. **Admission to this group shall be by live audition only. Students will be placed in this group by permission of the Band Directors Only.** Auditions for Indoor Drumline will be held in October-November each year. Practices begin in November with performances from January through April. The majority of funds to run the Indoor Drumline will come from the students alone. There is a set "Fee" for participation in the D-Line and a set schedule of these fees is to be adhered to. The KISD band budget is not at a level where we can assist in this endeavor financially. Uniforms, props, entry fees, and the majority of equipment will be purchased by the students. The Band Program will donate some percussion equipment towards this endeavor. Should we have a KHS Band Indoor Drumline, the group will be sponsored by the Band Program and the Band Directors. The Band Directors will have final approval on all decisions regarding this group. Should the existence of this group become a detriment to the band program itself, the directors have the ability to dissolve and disband the group at any time. There are additional expense and travel involved for all members of this group. Rehearsals are after school and no band class time in the spring semester will be given for this group. Members of the Indoor Drumline are expected to make every practice and performance. Members of the Indoor Drumline are considered Members of the Wildcat Band Program. The behaviors and actions of the Indoor Drumline members should reflect the standards and decorum of the Wildcat Band. Discipline problems within this group shall be considered discipline problems for the Band Program. (All Members of the D-line are expected to adhere to the policies and regulations as stated in the "Indoor Drumline Audition Information Packet" made available at the time of the Fall Auditions.)

**Jazz Band** – This is a performing group within the KHS Band Program. Jazz Band is a separate class during the school day. **Admission to this group shall be by live audition only. Students will be placed in this group by permission of the Band Director Only.** The students enrolled in this class will be studying all aspects of Jazz Ensemble... from composers and performers, to theory, and improvisation, and performance. This group will

have required after school rehearsals and public performances in the fall and in the spring. The Jazz Band Members will be encouraged to participate in the ATSSB All Region Jazz process. Students will be required to attend concerts and competitions just as concert band members are. Participation in the fall or spring semester Jazz Band may require a live audition.

**Summer Band** - The Wildcat Band season begins with summer marching band at the end of July. During this time, we train the freshmen in marching techniques while the upperclassmen review and perfect their marching skills. We also begin rehearsing our marching show music as a group and in sectionals and start learning the marching show. Attendance is mandatory at all summer band rehearsals. Please refer to the earlier section about summer band. Please refer to the KHS Band Calendar of Events for Specific Dates and Times.

**Football Games/Pep Rallies** - The Wildcat Band supports the football team each Friday night in the fall by playing in the stands and performing a half-time show. There will be pep rallies at KHS most Friday mornings during football season. The band participates by playing the fight song, school song, pop tunes, and music for the Wildcats. Attendance at pep rallies is required. Our uniform for pep rallies will be the pep rally Green T-Shirt or the Show T-shirt and either (1) blue jeans with a belt (skirts, dresses, and shorts are not acceptable), or (2) Solid Black Dress Code Length Shorts with Belt Loops and a Belt. Your behavior in the pep rally is to be the same as your behavior at a football game - exemplary of what the KHS Band stands for - PRIDE. UIL Eligibility Standards do apply to these performances. Please refer to the KHS Band Calendar of Events for Specific Dates and Times.

**Marching Contests and Festivals** - The Wildcat Band will compete in several contests throughout the year. Our biggest is the Region UIL Marching Contest held in October-November. This contest is the single most important event in the Fall that the band participates in. The public's perception of the Kennedale ISD's Band Program is determined mostly by this event. We hope to find positive effort by every band student towards our success at this contest. UIL Eligibility Standards do apply to these contests. Please refer to the KHS Band Calendar of Events for Specific Dates and Times.

## CLASSROOM POLICIES

**Rules** - There are six basic rules that must be adhered to by all students during regular band class. They are:

1. **Look at the director when he/she is talking:** the director must know he/she has your sincere, undivided attention.
2. **Do not talk during rehearsal:** if you have any questions that need to be asked, you should raise your hand and be called upon.
3. **Wait to play your instrument unless instructed to do so.**
4. **Be prepared for each rehearsal** by bringing the proper equipment and supplies and be prepared to perform your music to the best of your abilities.
5. **Maintain a positive attitude while portraying good behavior** while in the classroom, as well as be respectful of your peers.
6. **No Electronic Devices Allowed in sight or in use during class or rehearsals or performances.** This includes headphones or ear buds on your person. Students may use their personal device on breaks and between classes.
7. **Use of Personal Devices (Chromebooks, Cell Phones, and iPads) may be allowed for certain days and projects (drill chart learning days) as designated by the band directors.**

**Attendance** - Due to the participatory nature of band, attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals and performances, both during and outside of school time. Absences mar the effectiveness of the entire band. In most academic courses, absence from class only hurts the individual; in band, the entire group is affected. It is

hoped that the commitment to being at each and every band rehearsal and performance will develop the band student into a positive and contributing member of society. **After school rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and numerical and citizenship grades are taken based on student participation in these rehearsals.**

**All absences must be approved in advance.** Absences will be excused by similar criteria established by the Kennedale High School attendance policy. Absences outside of school policy may be excused at the discretion of the director. **An excused absence (with no advance notice given prior to report time) from any rehearsal or performance MAY result in the student's reduction of grade, citizenship, chair, or their being reassigned to a different role in rehearsal and/or performance. An unexcused absence from any rehearsal or performance WILL result in one or all of the following: the student's reduction of grade, citizenship, chair, or their being reassigned to a different role in rehearsal and performance. Multiple or regular excused absences from band rehearsals and/or performances MAY result in removal from the band program. Multiple or regular unexcused absences from band rehearsals and/or performances WILL result in removal from the band program.**

**The following guidelines should be used for any absence:**

1. If a student needs to request an absence from a rehearsal or performance due to a family conflict that is known about ahead of time (ex: Wedding, Vacation), then written documentation of such a request shall be made 30 calendar days before the date in question. This written request may be (1) A hand written note that is signed by a parent, or (2) typed document that is signed by a parent, or (3) an email.
2. In the event of sickness or emergency absence, the student or parent shall call the band hall and tell a director "Prior" to the "Report Time" of the absence at 817-563-8035. Please leave a voicemail if the director is not available.
3. (1) A hand written note or (2) typed document that is signed by a parent or (3) an email (any communication should have a current phone number included) shall be brought to the director on **the next school day** in order for the absence to be considered to possibly be excused and in order to keep a record of that absence on file. Whether the absence is excused or not shall be at the discretion of the band director based on their evaluation of the reason given for the excuse.
4. Lack of proper documentation from #1 or #2 above provided will result in an unexcused absence.
5. Upon return, the student should meet with the director and see if any make up work is in order.
6. Any Student with an Excused Absence from a performance, WILL BE REQUIRED to do a "make-up" Assignment for the excused event. This Assignment will be equitable to the time and effort of the missed rehearsal/performance and will be at the discretion of the Band Director.
7. Once the official calendar of events is given to each student at the beginning of each semester, the student should organize their own personal calendar and check for any conflicts. If a student has a schedule conflict, they should talk with the appropriate director as early as possible and ask for permission to be tardy, leave early, or miss the event. Permission may or may not be granted; each situation will be evaluated on its own merit. In the past, we have allowed students to miss events for other school functions, family weddings, etc.
8. Medical and dental appointments should be scheduled around band activities unless an emergency occurs. The Directors will work with parents on medical related conflicts as they arise.
9. Do not assume that driver's education courses, college courses, or standardized tests are an acceptable reason to miss band rehearsal or performance... **it is not.** Absences from rehearsals and performances due to taking driver's education / college courses will result in disciplinary action as an unexcused absence.
10. Clubs, organizations, tutorials, and make up exams are to be done outside of band rehearsals. Our schedule has been designed to accommodate these activities.
11. Students missing band rehearsals for attendance at Club Meeting, etc., shall be considered as unexcused absences from band. See Band Directors for making specific requests for these events.
12. **Work is NEVER a valid excuse for missing band rehearsals or performances!** Missing rehearsals or performances because of a "Job" conflict will result in an unexcused absence from the band event.



Babysitting siblings is considered a job and multiple absences (more than 2 per semester) will result in unexcused absences for each after that.

**Please understand that the quality of our program is in direct proportion to your attendance.** You cannot learn if you are not present and we are not successful without you here.

**Punctuality** - Students should be prompt (at least ten minutes early) for all band functions. The Band Directors will make every effort to have the band hall open 15 minutes before the student report time. A Student's Tardiness will be defined as being unprepared to begin the rehearsal at the designated time and place with all necessary equipment. We feel that it is the responsibility of the band staff to insist that all students are on time. Tardiness during marching rehearsal will result in a demerit being assigned; during concert season tardiness will be dealt with like any similar discipline problem for any academic class.

## **Excessive Absences during a Semester**

Students shall not be allowed to maintain membership in the band program should they have excessive absences for 1 semester (either spring or fall). In order for a student to both be an active participant of and be an active contributor to the Kennedale HS Band Program, they must maintain proper attendance within the program. This shall include attendance for: 1) Daily Band Class, 2) Afterschool Rehearsals, and 3) Performances. There will be an effort to have a parent conference as soon as it is determined that a student's absences are becoming a problem. If it is determined that excessive absences by the student has become detrimental to the success of: either the student or the program, then the band director will begin the process to have the student removed from the band program.

## **DISCIPLINE**

The directors hold all members of the Wildcat Band Program to high standards of discipline. The actions of each member of the band program affect the overall image of the Wildcat Band in the school and community. When dealing with such a large group as the marching band and tens of thousands of dollars worth of equipment, it becomes necessary for each member to always behave in a mature manner. When dealing with disciplinary problems, the directors will follow a discipline plan that includes counseling with the student, assigning demerits, assigning detention hall, contacting the parents, and referring the student to the administration. The Band director will review all the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular violation and impose appropriate disciplinary action. Band directors will strive for consistency in meeting out punishment for Wildcat Band Handbook violations, but will also exercise sound professional discretion. During marching season, students may be asked to "make up time" for Demerits as a motivator to promote better discipline such as serving D-Hall Time, etc. However, if the band program is to maintain high levels of excellence, discipline problems and the need for corrective disciplinary measures should be nonexistent. If the actions of a student become a consistent problem, a conference may be arranged with the parents and the student may be removed from the band program. As students are receiving P.E. Credit for participating in marching band, all students will be expected to stay in good physical conditioning in order to meet our physical requirements.

**Demerits** - ONLY THE BAND DIRECTORS CAN ASSIGN DEMERITS. Our band Drum Majors and Captains will make recommendations on what students should receive demerits for rule infractions and the band directors will make their decisions based on these recommendations. Demerits are assigned to students for not following the guidelines and expectations stated in BOTH this band handbook AND the student code of conduct. Demerits are similar to "Detention Hall" in that the students will "Serve" time as a penalty for breaking the rules and not meeting expectations. Students who receive up to 3 demerits in a week (the week runs from a Friday

Football Game during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter to halftime of the next week's game) will "serve" time during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break. TWO MINUTES OF CLOCK TIME PER DEMERIT. If a student receives 4 or more demerits in a week, then they will lose 6 minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privileges for that week and also be assigned teacher D-Hall for the following Wednesday afternoon from 3:30-3:45pm. On weeks when there is no football game, students will serve 5 minutes of "D-Hall" on Wednesday per demerit. The time spent in this D-Hall will be taken up by doing helpful tasks to help the band program, ie. cleaning the band hall, inventory, tightening stands, cleaning instruments, practicing marching or their instrument, or Physical Fitness Activities (such as Running Laps, Performing Push-Ups or Sit-Ups., etc. The Director of Bands has the discretion to assign/dismiss any or all demerits for any or all students on a case by case basis.

**Merits** - Merits are awarded to students for excellence in behavior and performance. Merits can be awarded by Band Directors and Drum Majors and Captains. They will be accrued during the week and will negate any disciplinary demerits (they will not apply to uniform inspection demerits!). Students with Merits and No Demerits will earn Free Time Off during 4<sup>th</sup> quarter at games. Merits will be erased after 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter each week, therefore they do not carry over from week to week. A student's Unused Merits may be used on Friday Night Ballgames as "Extra Time for Breaks" during the game.

Wildcat band members will be held to high standards when it comes to behavior. We hope to achieve excellence this year and include all of our students in our successes. The directors have set reachable goals for our band program, and a safe and positive learning environment will exist within the band program. Negative actions, behavior, or attitudes shown by any band member that degrade the integrity of the band program will be met with swift action and severe penalties. Any student who verbally, or physically challenges the authority of a band director or hired instructor may be removed from the performance/rehearsal immediately. The safety of the students and staff is a top priority, and any attempts to undermine this fact will not be tolerated. That student may face severe disciplinary action.

Minor discipline issues will be handled on a case by case basis pursuant to the plan set up in the KHS Student Code of Conduct and any KISD's discipline guidelines.

## **More on Discipline:**

### **Removal from Band Program**

It is the goal of the Kennedale Band Program to develop student Wildcat band members who are willing to behave or conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. If a Wildcat band member exhibits a persistent behavior which is contrary to the overall well-being of the program, he or she may be removed from the band program.

**Conduct Expectations** – The conduct of a Wildcat band member at Kennedale High School is closely observed in many areas of everyday life. It is important that actions at all times be above reproach. Therefore, some guidelines must be followed by all Wildcat band members in our program. Kennedale ISD band members who participate in the band program are expected to meet the standards set forth by the KHS Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct. This includes public display of affections at all band functions or in the PAC at any time. Students should display positive choices of public decorum and professionalism at all times when representing the band. Failure to meet these expectations may result in severe disciplinary action, including removal from the program.

The Band Director will have the authority and final say in any matter concerning a Wildcat band member removed from band or suspended from competition due to prohibited conduct.

**Disciplinary Action** – The KISD Administration and the Band Directors will review all the facts and

circumstances surrounding a particular violation of the student handbook or student Code of Conduct. These two entities shall impose appropriate disciplinary action for infractions. They will strive for consistency in meeting out punishment for Wildcat Band Handbook KISD Prohibited Conduct violations, but will also exercise sound professional discretion. Violation of any of the aforementioned rules by a band member participating in band will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

1. General Misconduct Offenses not requiring removal from the regular education program and Wildcat Band Handbook Violations;
  - The band director has the authority to impose reasonable sanctions, including extra rehearsals, Demerits, Detention Hall, reduction of Citizenship grade, reduction of letter grade, removal from the marching show, reduction of chair, or removal from position of authority, for band members who breach conduct expectations but do not engage in prohibited conduct.
  - Sanctions may increase with each offense and can lead up to a student being removed or dismissed from the band for up to one calendar year for persistently failing to abide by band conduct expectations.
  - Students placed in In-School Suspension (ISS) for general misconduct violations may be eligible to practice after school during the term of their placement. Band members \*‘‘may’’ be ineligible to participate in any band performances/contests during the term of their placement. (\*with principal approval)
2. Severe Misconduct: If it is decided by the director of bands that a violation merits a higher level of discipline, then the possibility exists that a student could be Suspended from all band contests and performances for the following time periods: (The band member may be required to attend and actively participate in all practices unless specified otherwise by the band director. Any practices missed may be required to be made up before a band member may participate in a band contest.)

### **KISD Guidelines - DAEP**

Band members placed in DAEP (Alternative Education Program) or Expelled from the Regular Education Program shall be suspended from all activities for the following time periods:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Placement** - Student MAY be Suspended from all band activities during the placement period and for 14 days upon the date the band member returns to his or her regular campus.\* (The band member may be required to practice, but may not participate in a performance or contest.)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Placement** - Student MAY be Suspended from all band activities during the placement period and for 30 days upon the date the band member returns to his or her regular campus.\* (The band member may be required to practice, but may not participate in a performance or contest.)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and Subsequent Placements** - Student MAY be Suspended from all activities during the placement period and for one calendar year upon the date the band member returns to his or her regular campus.\*

\*Returning band members and their parents may be required to meet with all band directors upon their return to the regular campus after any DAEP placement.

Guidelines will be established to determine what plan of action the band member must complete before being allowed to participate with the band after returning from DAEP.

## **KISD DRUG TESTING PROGRAM**

Kennedale ISD has a drug testing program. All KHS Band Students will adhere to the rules and guidelines of this program. If a student fails a drug test that make them ineligible for a time frame of performances in the fall marching band season, that student will become an alternate marcher until they are eligible to regain eligibility per the times set by the drug testing program. At that point, the director of bands will determine whether or not

that student will resume in their spot or assume a different role in the band show. If a student fails a drug test that make them ineligible for a time frame of performances in the post marching band concert season, that student will participate in all rehearsals or practices until they regain eligibility per the times set by the drug testing program. The Band Program will follow all rules and guidelines set forth by the KISD Drug Testing Program not stated in this band handbook.

## GRADING POLICY

**Playing Grades** - Many of the grades will come from playing tests. These tests may be: Music Pass offs, Scale Tests, Marching Pass Offs, etc. They may be administered in class, by tape prepared at home, and after school in rehearsal or in the director's office.

**Written Tests** - There may be a few written tests during the year. The semester final exams must be written. These tests will cover theory, history, vocabulary, etc.

**Participation Grade** - Part of each student's band grade is awarded for participation in during school and after school rehearsals and sectionals. In the Fall Semester, after school rehearsals will start according to a published schedule for marching band. In the Spring, the concert bands will have section rehearsals beginning after marching season to the end of UIL contest in April. **Attendance at sectionals, after school rehearsals, and playoffs is mandatory!!** These are co-curricular events that each student is graded. This preparation includes knowing the assigned music, having music memorized when applicable, and bringing the proper materials. We anticipate that each student will be required to attend no more than one sectional per week. Sectionals count as a rehearsal and are an extension of the school day, consequently, the KISD attendance policy is in effect. Missing a sectional with an unexcused absence, or missing any sectional without advance notice of an excused absence, will result in lowering the student's grade for the grading period.

## SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

**Instruments** - Each student must have an acceptable instrument in proper working condition. **The school provides some instruments for use with an instrument use fee of \$150 per semester.** These are generally the more expensive and larger instruments. The student will be held responsible for any repairs needed to keep the instrument in good working condition and the instrument should be returned in the same condition in which it was received. The student will also be held responsible for vandalism, theft, and other damages incurred while the instrument is checked out to them. We strongly encourage all students to insure their instruments. Be sure that you have a written record at home of the make, model, and serial number. This information is necessary if the instrument should be lost or stolen. Do not let anyone hold, play, or borrow your instrument; this often leads to needless damage. All instruments must be clearly labeled with the student's name, address, phone number, and slot number. All instruments should be taken home each evening for private home practice. If in the opinion of a KISD band director, a school owned instrument is not being properly maintained or cared for at any time of the school year, it is the director's prerogative to remove the instrument from the student's care.

**Personal Device for Marching Band Virtual Drill book.** Every Band members is Encouraged to secure an electronic device that will have access to the Virtual Drill Book Program to use for learning Marching Band Drill. Cell Phone and tablet devices that have internet access capabilities are acceptable. Those students that are unable to meet this requirement will be provided access to paper drill books provided by the band program in order to earn the required routines. Details on system (memory, etc) requirements will be made available soon.

**Step-Up Instrument** - The instrument sold to students for use as a beginning instrument is not always suitable

for advanced playing in high school. Parents are encouraged to buy their child a new instrument of higher quality if their child has shown promise and success. Before buying a new instrument, please check with your private teacher or one of the directors. Often a better brand or better price can be located.

**Reeds** - All clarinet, bass clarinet, and saxophone players are required to have a minimum of four reeds in good playing condition. If reeds are used on a rotation basis they will last longer. It is advisable to buy a complete box of reeds if possible. Oboe and bassoon players need to have at least two working reeds (due to the expense). It is very important for a student's development to play on good reeds; bad reeds are a definite detriment. Students are expected to buy the brand and strength of reeds recommended by their private teachers and band directors for the best results.

**Mouthpieces** - It is important that all players have the proper brand and size mouthpiece. Students are strongly encouraged to have the recommended mouthpiece so that the student progresses on par with the rest of their classmates.

**Cleaning and Lubrication** - Students will be expected to own a cleaning rod, cleaning snake, valve oil, key oil, slide grease, etc. which is needed to keep the instrument in proper condition.

**Percussion** - All percussionists will be required to own the right size drum sticks, practice pad, assorted mallets, and a metronome. A list of required sticks and mallets will be provided by the percussion coordinator. The school provides most other equipment needed. **A percussion instrument use fee of \$50.00 will be charged to each percussion student to assist in the repair, replacement of worn KISD owned percussion equipment.**

**Music Stand** - It is suggested that each student have their own wire music stand. This is to be used at home to facilitate practice.

**Metronomes/Tuners** - A metronome is a valuable possession to any instrumentalist. It helps develop rhythmic security. It also aids in developing technique. Tuners help the students understand proper pitch placement in the basics of intonation. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase and use these items.

**Classroom Materials** - Students must have a pencil at every inside band rehearsal throughout the year. Pens are not acceptable. Materials grades may be taken in order to encourage students to be prepared for class. Classroom grades may be given for having (or not having) proper materials in class

## FACILITIES

**Band Hall** - The appearance of our band hall reflects the Wildcat Band program. This includes the rehearsal hall, all ensemble rooms, storage areas, practice rooms, the director's office, and the hallways that connect these. Please help keep it neat and clean. Please pick up any trash, pick up any music stands that have fallen over, and try not to change the arrangement of the chairs. **Gum, food, and drinks are not allowed in the band hall at any time.** Students seen "chewing gum" in the band hall will result in automatic disciplinary action. Do not write on the board without the permission of the director. The equipment in the band hall is very expensive. **Do not touch any percussion equipment, any electrical equipment, or any instrument that is not your own, including drum mallets/sticks and the color guard equipment.** The chairs in the band hall are for sitting only. You are to sit properly in the chair with all four feet on the floor. Music stands are for music only; they are not to be used as desks. Please refrain from running or playing games in the band hall. **The band hall is off limits for students who are not band members because of the expensive equipment and for the safety of our students and staff.** When entering the band hall to store or pick up your instrument, please ask your friends to wait for you outside the room in the hallway or outside the PAC.

**Offices** - The director's office is a place for study, conference, organization of classes, and business that concerns the band program. **Students should not enter any office without the permission of the director.** Always knock first and wait to be invited before entering. The telephone in the band office is a business phone. Students should not expect to use the office phone except for emergencies or unusual situations which would require communication with parents.

**Instrument Storage and Lockers** - The instrument storage (slots) area located in the band hall is where students leave their instruments during the school day. At the beginning of each year, each student will be assigned a slot. **Students will be required to obtain a combination Master lock and to give the serial number and combination to the appropriate director ASAP. Students will be required to keep their instrument locker "locked" at all times when they are not present in the band hall area.** Lockers are to be kept trash free and in neat order. Your music, flip folder, and instrument are to be kept in your locker. Your lock should always be locked when you are not present at your locker. Do not use any locker that has not been assigned to you. When you take your instrument out for rehearsals, you should return your empty case to the slot. Although a very strong effort is made to keep all instruments safe and secure, **the school and its employees are not liable for any damage or loss due to theft of instruments kept in the storage area.** We strongly suggest that all instruments be insured. Lockers must be cleaned out periodically and locks removed by the last day of school. Any lock that is placed on a locker, and the combination has not been given to the appropriate director, will be cut off the slot's gate. Instrument cases are to be kept closed and latched when stored in a band locker.

**Practice Rooms** - Practice rooms are available in the band hall for the use of all band students and private lesson teachers. The rooms are to be used for music practice only; they should not be used to change clothes, study for other subjects, or to meet socially. If you put any additional chairs or stands in the room, please return them to the band hall once you finish your session. Please close the door and turn off the light when you are done.

## **MARCHING BAND UNIFORM and CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS**

**Marching Band Supplies** - For the student's convenience, many of these items for marching band may be purchased from the KISD Band Booster Club at the beginning of the year. **All members should have the following marching band supplies:**

Purchase of All Items Listed Below are the Sole Responsibility of the Student:

1. Black Band Show T-Shirt (to be worn under the marching uniform) and throughout the year
2. Green Band "Pep" T-Shirt To be worn throughout the year
3. Flip Folder
4. 1 Pair of white gloves/ 1 Pair of Black Gloves
5. Black "Marching Band" Shoes (MTX Brand)
6. Mid Calf Length SOLID Black Socks
7. Lyre (except percussion, double reeds)
8. Water jug with your name on it for outside rehearsal.
9. A Hat for outside rehearsal
10. Sunglasses for outside rehearsal
11. Comfortable tennis shoes (with heal covering back) for marching rehearsals
12. White Tshirts for Tuesday and Thursday Rehearsals
13. Solid Black Dress Code Shorts w/ belt loops and a solid Black Belt
14. Blue Denim Jeans (no capris)

15. Electronic Device (cell phone) to Access the Virtual Drill Book Program

## **Dress Code For All Marching Band Rehearsals**

**ALL** students **MUST** wear **TENNIS SHOES** and **SOCKS** for all outside marching rehearsals. **NO** other shoes are acceptable. Tennis shoes without a “back” and High-top tennis shoes are not acceptable. No one may march barefoot. When outside or in the Indoor Facility: **Sandals, Boots (combat or cowboy), or Flip Flops are NOT allowed...** Only tennis shoes or marching shoes are allowed. You must wear socks to prevent your feet from blistering and chafing from marching. All students are requested to have a hat and sunglasses for outside, **BUT** these items must be removed when inside the building. All boys must wear a shirt, and all boys and girls must wear a shirt of appropriate length and coverage. Razer Back T-shirts and Tank Tops are acceptable. A student's Mid Drift (belly/waist) must be covered at all times. Low cut T-shirts on the underarm sides should not be so low that the Bra or mid-section/waist is showing. Ladies should have appropriate coverage of bustlines. No “Sophie” style shorts. **No Yoga Pants (Leggings/Stretch Pants) may be worn without shorts over them at any time.** Shorts for all students should be of modest length to provide modest coverage of their body at all times. Students are encouraged to have their own **WATER JUG** at outside rehearsals. Any students found to be in violation of this dress code will be subject to disciplinary action. Tuesday and Thursday Rehearsals are **WHITE T-SHIRT Days.** **Every student is required to wear a white t-shirt for rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

## **UNIFORMS**

**Marching Uniforms** - The band uniform began as a traditional military uniform. When in uniform, you are on parade, wear it with pride and dignity. Your personal appearance and your actions represent not only you, but also your band, your school, and your community. The uniform is to be worn as a total ensemble and should not be worn halfway; the jacket should be zipped with the collar buttoned, and the hat should not be removed unless told to do so. A uniform is issued to each band member at the beginning of the school year. Students must supply their own marching shoes, black socks, and band shirt (see Marching Band Supplies). We ask that the uniform, when not worn, be hung on a wooden or heavy plastic coat hanger and transported in a sturdy garment bag. Students are responsible for damage due to negligence, and will be assessed a fee for repair or replacement of the garment. A student's records will be held if the uniform is turned in dirty, incomplete, or damaged. If the uniforms are not turned in at the appropriate time, late fees will be assessed. The uniforms cost over \$450 each and special care should be given to them.

**Cleaning** - The uniform needs to be kept clean after each major performance. Uniforms will be checked in after most performances. Some weeks the students will be asked to take the uniform to be dry cleaned. Because of the expense, it is very important that an approved cleaning establishment clean the uniforms. The KBBC and KISD will professionally dry clean the uniforms several times a year. **To assist in this cleaning, each student will pay a fee to the WBC to help offset the costs of these cleanings.**

## **DRESS CODE FOR STAGE PERFORMANCES AT HOLIDAY AND CONCERT BAND SEASON CONCERTS**

For Stage Performances at KHS and other venues (such as the Holiday Concert, Spring Concert, and UIL Concert Contest). Kennedale HS Band Students will **NOT** wear the Marching Band Uniform. We will have a Standard of Attire that reflects the quality and stature of a band program. Students will dress appropriately for a concert season (and Holiday Concert) performance. Below shall be the standard that **EVERY** Student will meet

in order to participate in these concert events:

### **Concert (Stage) Attire:**

1. ALL STUDENTS are REQUIRED to wear Solid Black Dress Shoes. No Sandals or Flip Flops. No Tennis Shoes. Marching Season Shoes are allowable.
2. ALL STUDENTS are REQUIRED to wear solid black socks or black hosiery. No Bare Skin showing between shoes and bottom of pant cuff when sitting.
2. ALL STUDENTS are REQUIRED to wear Solid Black Dress Pants (Slacks) with a belt. All Students (Boys and Girls) are required to wear Black Dress Pants (slacks). These pants may not be Denim (Jean) material and may not be Shorts or Capri length. **The black slacks should come to the top of the shoe or top of the foot when standing.**
3. All Boys are required to wear a SOLID BLACK Dress Shirt (Collared) (may be polo or button down) If wearing a tie, it too must be a SOLID Black Tie. There can be NO WHITE showing anywhere on the shirt or tie. ONLY SOLID BLACK. Male Members of the Wind Ensemble are Encouraged to wear a Black Suit Jacket for the UIL Concert Contest, the KHS Band Spring Concert, and for KHS Graduation.
3. All Girls are required to wear a Dress Shirt or Blouse of appropriate school coverage. This shirt is required to be SOLID BLACK. There can be NO WHITE showing anywhere on the shirt (blouse) A SOLID BLACK jacket or “cover” may be worn over the shirt. Ladies Shirts may be a Long or Short Sleeve Shirt, or Sleeveless Shirt, but no spaghetti straps or strapless. No Plaid, No Grey, No Silver, Only SOLID BLACK.
4. For Competitions, NO JEWELRY may be worn, (with the exception of ear ring studs and an arm watch)
5. For Concerts and Graduation, Jewelry may be worn but should not distract or detract from the performance.
6. Students with long hair (to the shoulders or longer), must have hair pulled back from the face and eyes in a ponytail style.

Students not dressed in appropriate clothing as stated above will not be allowed to perform. A reduction of grade and citizenship will be made and the student may lose status as a performer within the program. Multiple offenses will result in removal from the program.

## **Band Banquet Attire**

**SPECIFICS ABOUT THE BANQUET WILL BE AVAILABLE IN MARCH of 2023. In General, attire and behavior expectations will be set forth by the band directors, the booster club, and KHS Principal. Below are some general expectations for students and parents to consider as they plan for future attendance at this year’s band banquet.**

- **This is a Kennedale High School event. All patrons will observe the rules and expectations set forth by the KHS Band Directors and KISD while in attendance at this event. KISD School rules and expectations of discipline and decorum are to be followed.**
- All Patrons are expected to wear attire that will meet the generally accepted standards of dress for a professional and formal banquet. Non-Dress Shoes, Jeans, Shorts, T-Shirts, etc. are NOT considered Acceptable attire for this formal banquet. Ladies Dresses should cover all of their mid-drift with NO Belly Showing. Low cut dresses should be modest in coverage and not revealing. Shirts and dresses should cover the buttocks completely. Ladies are encouraged to not wear two piece dresses that have an open mid drift area where belly skin is not covered completely by the dress/blouse top.

A More Specific and Detailed List of Expectations and Guidelines and Rules will be made available in March of 2023. Students are encouraged to wait until this Document is made available to make their purchases of attire for the KHS Band Banquet.



# INSPECTIONS BEFORE MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCES

Before each major marching performance, there will be an inspection of each member of the Wildcat Band. Below is a checklist of items that will be looked at. If you have any problems in any area, you will be assigned one or more demerits. If a student were to look totally unacceptable, he/she might be sent home and not allowed to perform with the band on that day, consequently receiving a failing grade for that performance. **It is the goal of the band to have no one receive a single demerit.** Please try your best to be ready for inspection!

1. **Tardy to inspection/run through.** Be on time! Plan and prepare on Thursday evening. There should not be any last minute problems.
2. **Not in complete uniform.** You should be in complete uniform when anyone sees you. Please dress at home or in the dressing rooms. Make sure you never wear the uniform with the wrong shoes, socks, without a coat on, without the collar fastened, etc. Do not wear any hat with the uniform other than the one issued. Make sure you are wearing your gloves, etc.
3. **Uniform not in garment bag.** Any time you transport your band uniform, it must be in a garment bag; please do not bring it to school on a hanger alone!
4. **Showing disrespect to the uniform.** When you are in uniform, you represent Kennedale High School as well as the band. Do not disgrace the uniform by smoking, cursing, horseplay, etc.
5. **Wrinkled or dirty uniform.** Your uniform is to be kept neat and clean after each performance. Periodic dry cleaning is necessary to maintain the uniform.
6. **Wrong socks.** The socks must be as designated for the uniform. With the new uniform, socks must be black. They must be totally black, with no added color or design.
7. **Shoes that are not clean and shined.** Make sure that your shoes are very clean. It will be necessary for you to clean/polish them 24 hours before inspection.
8. **Not dressed in proper undershirt.** You must wear your black band t-shirt under your uniform.
9. **Poor personal grooming.** Make sure you have clean hands, face, hair, etc. Nothing other than normal hair colors. No earrings or jewelry may be showing when you are in uniform. No face tattoos or face painting.
10. **Dirty or Nonfunctional instrument.** We will check your instrument closely during inspection. Make sure you have a good reed, clean mouthpiece, lubricated slides and valves, proper sticks and mallets, and no fingerprints on the brass instruments.
11. **No flip folder.** Everyone must own their own flip folder with their name clearly marked on it.
12. **Missing music.** You need to have your music with you. It should be in correct order. Keep your folder nice and neat. Lost music costs one demerit. We may check music during sectionals or class.
13. **Talking/discipline problem during inspection.**

## BAND TRAVEL

**Medical Release - Students must have a KISD medical release form on file with the band directors before they are allowed to travel with the band. This form gives us necessary information in case of a medical emergency.**

**Bus Travel – At no time shall a female and male student occupy the same bus seat. At no time should two students occupy the same bus seat that have demonstrated themselves privately or publically to be known as a “couple”, regardless of sexual identification.** Public display of affection (kissing, necking, making out, etc.) are unacceptable in public or private while representing the band. This would include in the stand, on the bus, at performances, at rehearsals, or any time the students are representing the KHS band. As a general rule,

girls will sit on one side of the bus and boys on the other. Due to our extensive amount of travel, proper behavior on a bus is mandatory. For short trips, different sections may be assigned to each bus. A drum major will be in charge of each bus. To help the drivers and to show respect to the school, we ask that each student be silent. "Silent Bus" is defined as absolutely no talking on the bus. Silent Bus will be in effect from the moment you leave the band hall until a bus captain or director relieves the command. It will resume when the bus captain sees the stadium or performance site and gives the command. Trying to park buses in a stadium parking lot is often a difficult job. It is very helpful to the drivers for the bus to be quiet, and it also shows our pride and discipline. We would like for you to enjoy your trip, but we expect you to act in a mature manner. Students should refrain from loud talking, obscene language, cheering, or singing on the bus. If the bus seems to be too noisy, the bus captain will command silent bus. Students should never get off of the bus without the permission of the director. Any problems with student behavior will result in one or more demerits being issued or other disciplinary action as necessary. The directors shall have the discretion to "control the situation" as they seem necessary in order to protect the bus passengers from harm or duress. Students may be removed from their seat or bus and placed in a different location on the same, or different bus, in order for the director to maintain control of a situation. This will be done to protect the student in question, and the other passengers, from any further actions that may complicate the matter. This is done to diffuse the situation and allow a "cooling off" period for the participants involved in a dispute until a clear, calm discussion of the events can be held at a later time in a more private setting.

**We expect all students to travel as a group both to and from the performance site. There are two exceptions to this rule:**

1. A band member may be released to a parent after a game/event provided these conditions are met:
  - a) Parent must notify the director in writing in advance of departure for the trip.
  - b) Band member must travel with the band to the original destination. (exceptions only for athletes in specific situations and if a student has a prior educational commitment)
  - c) Parent must come to one of the directors personally to pick up the student and **"Sign Them Out" at the performance.** (A student will only be released to the Parent of that student unless other arrangements are agreed to by the band director.)
2. In case of emergency, a director may approve other means of transportation. **All parents must sign the Emergency Medical Release Form before students make any trip with the band.**

**Returning to School** - Students will be required to memorize and sing the words the KHS Alma Mater on all returning bus trips to KHS. Once the band returns from a football game or contest, all students will unload their belongings and then proceed to the band hall. The loading crew will need extra time to unload the percussion equipment, tubas, etc. **All students are required to stay in the band hall until the full band is dismissed together.** It is not fair to allow anyone to leave until all equipment has been properly put away. The band hall must be cleaned before dismissal. Once everything has been unloaded, there will be a very brief meeting to make quick announcements. After that, everyone will be dismissed together. It is impossible to say exactly what time the band will return from trips. You will always be informed during the week of an out-of-town game what the approximate return time is. Please tell your parents. Make arrangements ahead of time to have someone there to meet you. We expect all students to be picked up shortly after we return. **A band director will stay 30 minutes past dismissal time after a performance. After that point, students may be asked to wait for parents outside the building and the director will lock up and leave the campus.**

**Football Games** - The appearance that the band makes at football games is very important. We are exposed to the greatest number of people at football games. **Remember that the band's performance begins when the drum majors call you to attention for inspection and is not completed until you are dismissed from the band hall after the game.** Help us make the image of the band a positive one by following these guidelines:

1. Be properly uniformed at all times.
2. Be responsible for your own equipment. It is your responsibility to make sure your instrument or

- equipment is in the designated place so that the pit dads can load it on the truck.
3. Please move to and from the stands very quickly and orderly. No one should talk at all during entry and exit from the stands. Once you are in position, you should stand at attention facing the front until a drum major signals you to be seated.
  4. Walk in step when you are filing into the stands or lining up on the sidelines. Do not acknowledge your friends or anyone that may yell at you. Keep your head straight and enjoy the popularity.
  5. Sit in your assigned seat during the game; **do not move around.**
  6. Please eat before the football game. Do not take any unauthorized refreshments during the game. We will supply water for you in the stands and a cold drink for third quarter. **No eating whatsoever is allowed in the stands.**
  7. Do not play your instrument during the game at any time the band is not playing as an organized ensemble.
  8. **No one but band personnel is allowed in the band section.** Chaperones, directors, and special visitors are the only people other than band members allowed in this area.
  9. Watch the director at all times when he/she is standing in front of the band. Get music up rapidly when it is called. Watch closely for cutoffs in the music. Please understand that the directors work with the coaches; there are situations on the field and with the time of the game that determine if the band will play. Once the team scores, you need to be prepared to play the fight song.
  10. It is difficult to know exactly how fast the second quarter will go by. Because of this, be ready to move very quickly before half-time. Please be alert, quiet, and organized as we get into position for the half-time performance.
  11. Part of our job is to be excited and support the team. You are encouraged to cheer with the cheerleaders and move to the beat of the percussion. We just ask that you keep in control and that during the last part of the second quarter, you are mentally preparing yourself for the half-time performance.
  12. Poor behavior at performances will be dealt with swiftly and disciplinary measures will be severe. **The director WILL NOT tolerate misbehavior while we are in uniform at a performance!**

## INDIVIDUAL IMPROVEMENT

**Private Lessons** - The best way to develop your playing ability at the fastest pace is by studying privately. **The best performers are always those who take private lessons.** A list will be available of recommended private lesson teachers for the Wildcat Band Program; many of these teachers will teach at the band hall after school. We strongly urge everyone to study privately. If you have any questions about private lessons, please see the appropriate director. It would be in your child's best interest to check with the band director before beginning lessons with a teacher who is not on the recommended list.

**Solo and Ensemble Contests** - Solo and Ensemble Contest is traditionally held in February. The music to be performed at the contest must be selected by the private lesson teacher or director; the music must be on a specified list. Solos are performed by a single player with piano accompaniment. Ensembles are written for groups of three or more instruments (flute trio, brass quintet, etc.). Students that receive a first division superior rating are awarded a medal or patch. **Students shall pay their entrance fee, accompanist fee, provide their own original copy of the music, and provide their own transportation.** All students are strongly encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest.

**State Solo and Ensemble Contest** – The Students who receive a first division rating on a class 1 solo or ensemble earn the rite to enter the state solo and ensemble contest in San Marcos. The KHS Band Program will enter the online entries for the students who qualify, but **ALL costs of this contest (including entry fees, accompanist fees, and room and board are assumed by the student competitors. The KISD Band Program will only provide transportation to and from this event on behalf of the student. The Students who are selected for the State Solo and Ensemble Contest shall pay for their own room and board while**

## **on this weekend event.**

**All-Region Band** - The All-Region Band honors the most advanced students in our region of the state. Students receive the music that is to be played at the beginning of the school year and work to prepare it for an audition which is held in December. **An entry fee is charged and shall be paid by the student. The KISD Band Program will only provide transportation to and from the auditions for all region band on behalf of the student.** Every band member is encouraged to participate because of the many benefits which come from the practice that is required to prepare for the audition. Any student who prepares for All-Region will become a better player, and the band will improve as a result. Students who are selected for the All-Region Band will attend rehearsals on a Friday evening and all day Saturday (usually in January). **The KISD Band Program will only provide transportation to and from this clinic/concert event on behalf of the student. The Students who are selected for the All Region Band will pay for their own room and board while on this weekend event.** That Saturday evening, the All-Region Band will present a concert. Students are encouraged to have parents attend the concert. A prominent guest conductor will rehearse the band and conduct the concert. It is very exciting to be a part of this group that can work up very difficult band pieces in a short time.

## **PARENTAL HELP**

Parents play an important role in the development of a student's musical ability. Parents can take an active part in their child's learning process by attending concerts, encouraging their child to take their instrument home daily, encouraging home practice (it is encouraged that each student practice at least thirty minutes at home each day), listening to a child play at home, providing lessons when possible, providing the proper equipment, and praising accomplishments.

**KHS Band Boosters (WBC)**- By virtue of having a child in the band program, all parents are eligible and encouraged to obtain a membership form, pay the fee, and volunteer whenever possible. The main objective of the KISD Band Booster Club is to provide funds and support for the various projects in our band program. Some of these projects include social activities, guest clinicians, senior scholarships, etc. It takes a great deal of work and cooperation from parents at all levels to accomplish goals.

**Band Parents** - All KHS Band Parents are encouraged to get involved in their children's band activities. Parent volunteers are vital to the success of our program. Some of the areas in which we need assistance are uniform committee, fundraising committee, chaperones, newsletter, phone tree, refreshments, sewing committee, pit dads, etc.

**Pit Dads** - The pit dads are a unique group of men who go above and beyond to help the Wildcat Band. The group is made up of dads of band members that supervise loading and unloading the trailer for every performance, design and build props for the marching show, remove and replace the orchestra pit cover in the auditorium, and provide enthusiasm and spirit to the Wildcat Band.

## **PERFORMANCES/REHEARSALS/CALENDARS**

At the beginning of each semester, each student will receive a calendar listing all extra rehearsals, sectionals, concerts, contests, etc. that will take place during that semester. For most events on the calendar, the only excused absence will be an illness or death of a family member. Although we try to avoid it, it may become necessary to slightly alter the schedule. In such an event, the students will be informed as soon as possible and absences due to unavoidable conflicts may be accepted. Unexcused absences from band rehearsals and performances will result in a reduction of the student's: Grade, Citizenship, Band Chair Placement, Officer Status, and possibly participation in the band program. Our major performances throughout the year are: Ice Cream Social, Varsity Football Regular Season and Play-Off Games, Marching Band Festivals, Marching Band UIL Contest(s), Kennedale Holiday Tree Lighting Event, Arlington Holiday Parade, KHS Bands Winter

Concert, Spring Concert Band Festivals, UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest, Elementary and JH Recruiting Concerts, Band Trip Contest, KHS Band Spring Concert, and KHS Graduation. Our band has well over 30 performances throughout the year. That's more than any other fine arts group on our campus. No performance is "less important" than another. We are a performance organization... we perform for the public. Please make appropriate arrangements to attend all band functions so that you may be a successful and contributing member of our band. When the band calendar comes out each semester, please arrange your schedule so that you can perform with us at every performance and so that you may have a great experience with our band.

## STATE AND DISTRICT GUIDELINES

The Kennedale Band program is directly affected by the rules and policies developed by several state organizations such as Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA), University Interscholastic League (UIL), and the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Some of the rules and policies developed by these organizations are no pass/no play, curricular, extra-curricular, and co-curricular status. Below is a brief explanation of each of these:

**No Pass/No Play** - Basically, if a student has the minimum amount of credits necessary for his grade level, he is eligible during the first six weeks of school. If a student fails any six week period, he/she is ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities during the next three week period. This is a change from the past, when the period lasted six weeks. Actually, the first week is a buffer period and the penalty begins after five school days. Following the three week period, students that were ineligible become eligible if they are passing all of their courses. The key to this ruling is that it applies to extra-curricular activities; many band events are not classified as extra-curricular (see below). Students are required to turn in a grade report to the directors at the three weeks point. As a professional courtesy, we seldom discuss the situation of a failing student directly with a teacher. We do not want any teacher to feel like we are pressuring them to pass a student just so they can compete with the band. It is also important to know that after the grading deadline has passed, even if a teacher changes a student's grade from failing to passing it does not make that student eligible unless the teacher admits to making a calculation mistake! Of course, it is important to our program that band students stay academically eligible. If a student continues to fail many classes, maybe band is taking up time that could be spent studying. We suggest that at the end of the semester or year, parents of students that have failed several six weeks evaluate if the student should remain part of the band program.

### UIL MARCHING BAND PHYSICAL REQUIREMENT (NEW for 2019 and Beyond)

The following rule concerning pre-participation physicals for marching band takes effect on August 1, 2019: C&CR Section 1105: (F) MARCHING BAND PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EXAMINATION. UPON ENTERING THE FIRST AND THIRD YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL AND UPON ANY 7th OR 8th GRADE STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN MARCHING BAND, A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION SIGNED BY A PHYSICIAN, A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSED BY A STATE BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EXAMINERS, A REGISTERED NURSE RECOGNIZED AS AN ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE BY THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS OR A DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC IS REQUIRED. STANDARDIZED PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORMS, AVAILABLE FROM THE UIL OFFICE AND AUTHORIZED BY THE UIL MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, ARE REQUIRED. (G)MARCHING BAND MEDICAL HISTORY FORM. EACH YEAR PRIOR TO ANY PRACTICE OR PARTICIPATION A UIL MEDICAL HISTORY FORM SIGNED BY BOTH STUDENT AND A PARENT OR GUARDIAN IS REQUIRED. A MEDICAL HISTORY FORM SHALL ACCOMPANY EACH PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND SHALL BE SIGNED BY BOTH STUDENT AND A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

KISD Maintains the requirement that BAND MEMBERS must PASS a Physical EVERY YEAR.

**Curricular** - These are activities that occur within the regular school day and constitute the delivery of instruction. Basically, classes between 7:30 am and 2:45 pm.

**Extra-curricular** - These are school sponsored activities that happen before or after school which are not

directly related to instruction of essential elements, but they may have an indirect relation to some areas of curriculum. Included in this category would be band performances at football games and UIL contest, the spring trip, all-region tryouts, and solo and ensemble.

**Co-curricular** - Most band rehearsals fall into this category. Co-curricular activities are an extension of classroom instruction in which participation is by the entire class or a significant portion of the class. If a band student were to fail the first six weeks, he/she would not be able to go with the band to football games or contests, but he/she would be required to attend the rehearsals. For an event to be classified as co-curricular, it must meet these six points: 1) The activity must be completely controlled by the school district. 2) The activity may not be a competition. 3) There cannot be an admission charged. 4) It cannot be conducted in conjunction with an extra-curricular activity. 5) The activity must be held on school campus (exceptions - field trips with the entire class or performances held off campus due to lack of facilities). 6) The activity must be graded. Performances like the annual spring concert are co-curricular and all students must attend and are graded for their attendance, even if they are not academically eligible.

## **Band Letter Jackets**

(Revised 7-1-19)

### **Kennedale HS Band Letter Jacket Information/Guidelines**

(Revised 7/1/19)

Letter jackets are one of the most visible parts of a school organization and represent the highest level of achievement in our band program. They should be a symbol of your pride and accomplishments. There is a fair process in which every student is given the opportunity to attain a letter jacket. This system will be respected and upheld.

Band Program Letter Jackets will be awarded and ordered twice a year. The target dates for the orders to be made is September 1<sup>st</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>. Jackets usually take 6-8 weeks for delivery. Jackets will be presented to the students without ceremony as soon as they are received.

Letter jackets will only be awarded to students who are currently enrolled in the KHS band program and class. Should a student quit or be removed from the band program for any reason, they will forfeit all points accumulated to date and all eligibility to receive a letter jacket from the KHS Band for the future.

The band program (with financial support from the KHS Band Booster Club) will pay for the price of the jacket and a letter only. Any other additional patches or alterations are the responsibility of the student and must be paid for in full at the time the jacket is ordered.

On or about August 21<sup>st</sup> and the Week after UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest (usually in late February) a student may turn in an application to the band directors for a desire to be awarded a letter jacket. The application will include 2 brief letters of recommendation from a teacher, and a parent; a typed application letter by the student, and other information and forms that will help determine that student's status with regards to the requirements listed below. The Band Directors will meet to determine all applicant student's eligibility. Once it has been determined that a student has met the requirements stated below, jackets will be awarded.

Students will only be awarded a band letter jacket if they have not received one from KISD previously. If they have been awarded a jacket by another group, then they will be awarded a band letter only. No more than one letter or letter jacket will be awarded to any band student regardless of the number of points accumulated.

It will be decided by the band directors that a student is to be awarded a letter jacket by the band program when the

student meets the following requirements:

1. The student meets the criteria listed below.
2. The student has maintained the status of “Good Standing” while in the band program.
3. The student completes the application process.

## **VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS REQUIREMENT (new for 2019-2020)**

Every Applicant shall complete 4 hours of Community Service at a KHS Band Director Approved KHS Band Function Event, such as: KHS Band Pancake Breakfast, KHS Band Garage Sale, KHS Band Concession Stand, KHS Band Floor Crew, KHS Band Clean Up Dates, KHS Band Registration Day, KHS Band Pep Band Volunteer Performance, KHS Band Fundraiser Event, Etc. These 4 hours may be completed in 1 hour increments at up to 4 approved events.

## **Criteria**

In order to be eligible to receive a letter jacket, a student must meet/complete/comply with all of the following categories:

### **Category I: KHS Classification**

- A. Student shall be a Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior at KHS at the time they submit an application.

### **Category II: KHS Band Status**

- A. Student shall have been enrolled in Kennedale High School Band class and an active full time participant in the band program for the entirety of the current school year for March orders and for the Full Year Prior for September orders.
- B. Student shall have been an active participant in All KHS band full band Functions, Contests & Spring and Holiday concerts.
- C. Academic Ineligibility - shall not be held against the student for lack of participation in Category II events. Other absences will be addressed on a case by case basis.

### **Category III: Point System**

Students must accrue **EIGHT POINTS** in order for the student to be eligible for a jacket to be awarded. Students may accumulate points beginning the first day of school as members of the KHS Band their 9th grade year. All points are cumulative and must have been accumulated while a member of the KHS Band.

It is the sole responsibility of the student to keep track of points accumulated while a KHS Band Student on the “points worksheet” with appropriate signatures from the band director. If the worksheet is lost, then the student will start over with a new accumulation sheet. They will have to produce the documentation at the time of application for a jacket.

### **Category IV: Service Hours**

Students shall accumulate a minimum of FOUR (4) Band Function Community Service Hours **before** they apply for a letter jacket. These hours may be earned separately (One Hour at a Time at up to Four different event dates), or in succession at one event date. Students that have not accumulated the required Four Hours of service time shall not be allowed to order a jacket for that cycle.

## **POINT SYSTEM**

### **Leadership Service to KHS band**

<u>Points</u>	<u>Position</u>
4	Squad Leader/Lieutenant
6	Captain/Drum Major

### **Individual Music Enrichment**

<u>Points</u>	<u>Activity</u>
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- 1 For participation in ATSSB or TMEA All Region Audition Process (not necessarily selection)
- 2 Selection as an ATSSB or TMEA All Region Band Member (added to participation 1 point for a total of 3pts per event)
- 3 Selection as an ATSSB or TMEA All Area Band Member (added to participation 1 point for a total of 4pts per event)
- 5 Selection as an ATSSB or TMEA All State Band Member (added to participation 1 point for a total of 6pts per event)
- 1 Participation in UIL or Other Approved Color Guard, wind & Perc Solo & Ensemble Contest (1 point per date)
- 1 Reception of Div. 2 rating at UIL S&E Contest on a Class I or II Solo or Ensemble, Color Guard (added to participation 1 point for a total of 2pts per event)
- 2 Reception of Div. 1 rating at UIL S&E Contest on a Class I or II Solo or Ensemble, Color Guard (added to participation 1 point for a total of 4pts per event)
- 4 Active Participant in KHS Band Winter Guard or KHS Band Winter Drumline for a full season (4pts max per season/may be used for Fall Semester order only)
- 1 Active Participant in the KHS Marching Band for a full Fall semester (may be used for Spring Semester order only)
- 1 Active Participant in the KHS Concert Season for a full Spring semester (may be used for Fall Semester order only)
- 2 Jazz Band: Member of the KHS Marching & Concert & Jazz Band for a full school year. Points may be used for Fall Semester order only.

**(The maximum points a student may accumulate in one school year for All Non ATSSB/UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contests combined is 4 points. The maximum points a student may accumulate from any one contest event date is 4 points No points will be awarded to a student who does not appear (DNA) at the audition/contest/performance for any reason.)**

**Alternate method for satisfying categories:**

- A. The Director of Bands shall have the authority to “Award” a letter jacket to any Sophomore to Senior student at any time for outstanding/exemplary performance/service to the KHS Band and the Kennedale HS community, regardless of all categories.
- B. Senior Band Member - 3 Year Service Award. Any band student who has been a member of the Kennedale High School Band for their 9,10, and 11th grade years who has not previously been awarded a band letter jacket, will be awarded a jacket in August of their senior year, provided they are still an active band member in good standing and currently enrolled in the KHS band program and class.

**“Good Standing” shall be defined as:**

- A. A student who receives no citizenship grade less than “S” for band.
- B. A student who receives no referrals from the band directors to the KHS administration for behavior and discipline problems.
- C. All of the student’s Band Fees (marching and use fees and WBC fees) are paid and up to date at the time of the application being turned in.

**Application/Point Worksheet**

THE APPLICATION POINT WORKSHEET IS AVAILABLE FROM THE BAND DIRECTORS

Conflicts arising with these criteria will not be excused unless the conflict involves another varsity sport/activity, religious holiday, family emergency, or other reasons excused by the KHS Director of Bands and KHS principal. After all requirements are met, a student may be eligible to be fitted for a letter jacket if they



remain in “good standing” as a member of the Wildcat Band. This status will be at the discretion of the directors and KHS Principal and may be affected by the following: absences or excessive tardies to rehearsals and performances, attitude or discipline problems related to the band program and school environment, or lack of respect shown to directors, peers, school facilities, equipment or uniforms.

**The policies stated in this KHS Band Handbook may be revised on an as needed basis.**

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**Detach This Section and Return to the Band Director**

**KENNEDALE WILDCAT BAND HANDBOOK  
STUDENT AND PARENT SIGNATURES**

**2022-23**

This is to certify that I have received and read the attached policies regarding the Kennedale Wildcat Band, including use of school owned uniforms, instruments and equipment, student conduct, expectations, and attendance.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name Print: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name Print: \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_