

KINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL



Student & Parent Handbook

Guidelines for success in the KHS Tiger Band

KHS BAND MEMBERSHIP

The Kingston High School Band has been in existence for more than 80 years. These guidelines will help it continue to prosper.

Opportunities in the KHS Band

Membership in the KHS Band affords you many opportunities for performance. All students accepted into the KHS Band are automatically enrolled as a member of the KHS “Tiger” Marching Band. Also, each member is enrolled in one of three bands: the KHS Symphonic Band (NYSSMA Level III or IV- FRESHMAN ONLY), the KHS Concert Band (NYSSMA Level V- Sophomores-seniors) or the KHS Wind Ensemble (NYSSMA Level VI- select Sophomores-Seniors). All students have the opportunity to perform in additional ensembles. These may be open by audition only, or as need for instrumentation occurs. These include the following:

- **KHS Jazz Band and KHS Jazz Ensemble**

Students interested in jazz are encouraged to audition for the jazz program at KHS. Students who are selected for the Jazz Ensemble (NYSSMA Level VI) or for the Jazz Band (NYSSMA Level III or IV) register for these two ensembles as credit-bearing courses. Rehearsals are generally one evening a week for two hours. Open by audition and instrumentation.

- **KHS Brass Choir**

The KHS Brass Choir meets beginning in late October-early November and schedules holiday-themed performances throughout the Kingston area. The Brass Choir performs traditional brass ensemble repertoire. Open by instrumentation.

- **KHS Musical Theatrics Pit Orchestra**

The KHS Musical is presented each spring. The pit orchestra rehearses during ninth period in the weeks prior to the final rehearsals. The rehearsals switch to night time in the two weeks prior to the show. Open by instrumentation.

- **KHS Full Orchestra**

Members of the KHS Band are encouraged to participate in Full Orchestra. Full Orchestra rehearses 8th period (the same time as band). Performers are expected to participate in both band and orchestra portions of the concert, and in any extra rehearsals scheduled by the Orchestra Director. Open by instrumentation.

PERFORMANCE SEASON

The KHS Band season lasts all year long. We appreciate the fact that you, as a member, are willing to give up time in your summer to spend with the band. That is how we continue to improve our program – because of your commitment.

The “Tiger” Marching Band

Our Summer Band Camp is where the students in band learn/reinforce the marching basics and prepare for the upcoming Fall Field Show Season. The Field Show is presented at half-time of home football games and at competitions. Instructors work with the group as a whole and in sections.

The camp provides a great way for incoming students to become acclimated to the band program, to its members and to Kingston High School. Incoming students are assigned an upper class “band buddy” who will help them get used to the new school and new band.

Band camp runs around the last two weeks of August. The following are the dates of Band Camp 2016 at Crosby Elementary School:

Monday August 14, 2017 1:00PM-8:00PM

Tuesday August 15, 2017 1:00PM-8:00PM

Wednesday August 16, 2017 1:00PM-8:00PM

Thursday August 17, 2017 1:00PM-8:00PM

Friday August 18, 2017 1:00PM-8:00PM

Monday August 21, 2017 1:00PM-8:00PM

Tuesday August 22, 2017 1:00PM-8:00PM

Wednesday August 23, 2017 4:00-8:00PM

Thursday August 24, 2017 4:00-8PM

Friday August 25, 2017 1:00-8:00PM
(Performance @ 6:00PM)

Students should know that while we expect full participation at band camp. We understand that there are potential scheduling conflicts (athletics, vacations). **Please communicate these conflicts with the directors in advance.** You will receive a complete calendar of summer and fall activities. This calendar includes every rehearsal and performance through October. Please note that some performance times are not yet available. We will notify you as soon as we receive the times.

The schedule for the Marching Band also includes several parades. Each year the band has the potential to participate in:

1. Kingston High School Homecoming Parade
2. Kingston St. Patrick's Day Parade
3. Hurley's Memorial Day Parade
4. Kingston's Memorial Day Parade

All performances are required, however, if a conflict arises, please let us know ahead of time. A note signed by your parents is required. WORK IS NOT AN EXCUSE!!

Due to the tremendous amount of work it takes to put a field show together, there will be a need for extra (after band camp) Saturday or Sunday rehearsals at Dietz Stadium. Again, the complete schedule of extra rehearsals is included on the calendar.

Sectionals will continue on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday throughout the school year.

KHS Wind Ensemble, Concert Band and Symphonic Band

The KHS Wind Ensemble and KHS Concert Band begin their rehearsal season on the first day of school. The Wind Ensemble and Concert Band meet during 8th period in separate rooms. The KHS Symphonic Band (9th Grade only) also begin their rehearsal season on the first day of school. Symphonic Band will meet 3rd period (most likely). Performances include:

1. KHS "Pops" Concert
2. KHS Winter Concert
3. May Day Performance
4. NYSSMA Major Organizational Adjudication
5. KHS Spring Concert
6. Graduation

In addition, each year a performance trip might be scheduled. More information on these trips can be found later in this handbook.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

When the Kingston High School Band performs, in either a concert or marching setting, its membership is a direct reflection on our music program, Kingston High School, and when out of the area, the greater Kingston community itself. We appreciate your efforts to remember this.

Concert Performances

Attire for concert performances, as with all secondary schools in the Kingston District, is “concert black and white.” For men, this means black pants, a tucked in, collared white shirt. Dress shoes are also appropriate for a performance; sneakers are not. For ladies, this means black skirt or slacks and white blouse or shirt. Shoes should be of a dress nature.

Proper behavior of any audience includes common courtesy. Simple actions such as appropriate applause at the end of a work, silence during the performance, and “not getting up and leaving” or entering the hall during the performance are expected of all. Band students are expected to remain at the school for the entire concert to support their fellow musicians. During a concert, students should be quietly seated in the auditorium.

Marching Band Performances

Students will be in full uniform at all times when in public view. This is defined as the time from which we step off the bus to the time when we get back in. Students are not to remove their jackets or hats, unless otherwise directed to do so.

Students must wear the all-white band tee shirt under the uniform jacket. Colored shirts will show through the jacket and must not be worn. Jeans and jean shorts should not be worn under the uniform pants. For cold weather performances, long underwear is appropriate. Students should wear black socks.

A band uniform fee of \$75.00 will be collected at the beginning of band camp. The fee pays for shoes, gloves, shirts, dry cleaning expenses and alterations. This fee may vary slightly if special shoes or gloves are required. For your convenience, gloves and shoes will be kept at school with the uniform. Scholarships (based on need) are available if this fee can't be covered.

Just as it is important for a band to play together, it is also important for a band to look uniform. For this reason, the following are not to be worn while in uniform:

- Large earrings (small studs are acceptable)
- Sunglasses
- Excessive make-up
- Colored nail polish

Each percussionist will be required to have their own equipment. This equipment includes a pair of snare sticks, a pair of medium hard yarn mallets and a pair of cartwheel tympani mallets. In order to keep track of these sticks a stick bag will also be needed. If your student does not have this equipment it has to be purchased during the first week of school. We have secured a lowered school price for this equipment so it is suggested that it be purchased from the school. The package will include all above mentioned items except the snare sticks. It is assumed that students already own a pair of matched snare sticks. **There will be no school owned sticks or mallets (except Marching Field Drums) available for the students for rehearsal or lessons.**

Requirements for Membership

Students in grades 9-12 who can demonstrate acceptable ability on a given instrument, may be accepted into the KHS Band. Students are placed in either Concert or Symphonic Band based on audition, NYSSMA score, recommendation of previous year's band director and/or need for instrumentation.

Students are required to schedule band during 3rd period (9th Graders) or 8th period (10th -12th Graders) and are required to take group lessons as noted in our course outline.

Grading Policy

The grade for band will be assigned based on the following:

- 40% Lesson grade (learned/assigned material, participation)
- 10% Scale chart completion
- 25% Rehearsal preparation and participation (9th period sectional rehearsals)
- 25% Performance preparation and participation

Rotational Lessons

Lessons will be structured in the following manner. Wind players will be assigned to one of three groups based on ability and/or experience. Percussion lessons will be assigned to a specific letter day in the six-day cycle. You must attend a lesson for your ability group.

Each group will be assigned a letter day(s) (six-day cycle) depending on the size of the group. That letter day will not vary. Students choose the period they wish to attend lessons. They are to sign-up for a lesson period. The sign-up list is on the "lesson board" in the Concert Band room. Lesson passes may be obtained from either director. Students are to present a lesson pass to the teacher (for the class they are about to miss) 24 hours in advance.

Because we know that students enrolled in band also consider academics important, we believe it is important that they do not miss too many meetings on any one class because of lessons. For this reason, students are given "one free lesson" per marking period. That is to say, they must attend all but one scheduled lesson. Remember, lesson attendance and preparation are worth 40% of the overall grade. Any student who has exceeded the "missed lesson" allowance for any two marking periods is considered on probation and may be barred from attending any trips. They also may lose their seat in band.

Every lesson has two components: theory (scales and arpeggios) and either lesson books or competitive music (NYSSMA/All-County). There will be periodic Band Music tests during the marking period.

Opportunities in the KHS Music Department

Students are encouraged to take other music classes at KHS. Besides the performing organizations (Bands, Choirs, and Orchestras), we offer courses in music knowledge and skill development.

The KHS Music Department offers students a comprehensive music education, emphasizing performance techniques, musicianship, and music theory. Students are strongly encouraged to choose Comprehensive Musicianship (Theory I). According to the New York State Regents Action Plan, students have the option of choosing a three- or five-year sequence in music. Students should see their guidance counselor for more information.

Fundraising Opportunities

In an effort to reduce the financial impact of our trips, we offer students several fundraising opportunities throughout the year. Each student will have an account for the duration of their stay in band. Students may make direct cash contributions or may do fundraisers. For example, one of the biggest fundraisers is the Citrus Sale (held each November). All profits earned by an individual student go directly into that student's individual account.

Performance, Rehearsal and Lesson Make-ups

As stated earlier, we are proud of how many of our students excel academically and athletically. We realize that at times, events will conflict and a student will have to attend another event. Students whose regular attendance is good will not be required to make up the missed event. Students who are viewed as abusing the policy will be put on probation and will lose points from their band grade. Lessons may be made up at the discretion of the Directors and may not exceed one lesson per week. Lessons may be made up during 9th period.

NYSSMA Evaluation

The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) holds evaluation festivals throughout New York State each year. Kingston School District holds membership in NYSSMA and the KHS Band participates in two evaluations annually.

The Major Organizations Festival evaluates the performance and musicianship of the concert, symphonic and jazz bands as whole ensembles. All students are required to attend this performance. If the performance is out of the area, students will be bused from KHS

The Solo and Ensemble Festival evaluates the performance and musicianship of the individual (or small group of) player(s). Participation in NYSSMA solo or ensemble evaluation is required. NYSSMA scores will play a part in deciding which band a student is placed in and, in some cases, seating within that band. Students are responsible for knowing the appropriate scales or rudiments as required for their level, and are also responsible for having music as directed by the NYSSMA Manual. Students must have two originals (not photocopied) pieces of music. One copy is for the student, and one is for the NYSSMA judge.

Recognition for Superior Accomplishment

Students who attend NYSSMA may be eligible for other events that include:

- The Ulster County Music Educators All-County Band
- NYSBDA All-State Band(s)
- The NYSSMA Zone 9 Area All-State Band
- The NYSSMA All-State Band(s)
- The NYSSMA All-Eastern Band(s)

There are many other awards that are given locally for seniors excelling in leadership and musicianship:

- The John Phillip Sousa Award (National Award)
- The Sempre Fidelis Award (National Award)
- The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award (National Award)
- KHS Band Director's Award
- Woody Herman Jazz Award

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement in the KHS Band program is very important to its success. All parents are encouraged to become involved in the Tiger Band Booster Club. Standing committees include Uniform, Phone Chain, Public Relations, Chaperones and Fundraising. Parents who are interested in supporting the efforts of the Boosters through time, talent or financial means should see the Director(s). Parents involved in the chaperoning of a parade performance are requested to wear the Tiger Band golf shirt and black pants.

Booster Club meetings are held the Second Wednesday of each month.

Communication

Communication with the Directors is of the utmost importance. If a situation arises that we should know about, whether a personal issue, financial issue, or if you will be absent from a performance due to illness, family emergency or a schedule conflict, please let us know with as much advance notice as possible.

Contacting the Directors

Parents and students may reach Mr. Garner at 399-0382 or Mr. Giebelhaus at 633-2663. We can also be contacted by e-mail at:

Mr. Garner: sgarner@kingstoncityschools.org

Mr. Giebelhaus: jgiebelhaus@kingstoncityschools.org

**Welcome, and
best wishes for
success in the
KHS Band!**

**Mr. Garner
And
Mr. Giebelhaus**

KHS Band Directors