

Kimpton Middle School Band

Red/Orange Hybrid

Handbook

2020-2021 School Year

Sandra Sandman, Band Director

Introduction

This handbook will serve for the 2020-2021 school year for members of the Kimpton Middle School Bands. This handbook has dates, rules and regulations, grading policies, required performances, concert dress and etiquette requirements, instrument checkout procedures, goals for the band, and other information related to band membership. It is designed to be a reference for any band event or policy that may come up during the year. **IT IS STRONGLY ADVISED THAT EACH STUDENT AND PARENT FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF OR HERSELF WITH THIS HANDBOOK.** Please keep a copy of the handbook to refer to during the year.

Our Band Web Site <http://smfband.org/>

The Kimpton Middle School Band maintains a web site that has all the information needed for participation in the band. This is a very convenient resource if you have misplaced this handbook, instrument or equipment upgrade, or other letters that have been passed out in band during the year. A copy of this handbook is available on this site. Please visit regularly to get information on the band and events.

Goals and General Information

The Kimpton Middle School Band program has a long history of excellence. By joining the band, you have committed yourself to continuing that pursuit of excellence in musical performance. Congratulations! The goals of the band each year are to attain a high level of musical performance and understanding by its members, to have its members acquire the skills needed to perform in the Stow-Munroe Falls High School Band and to perform high quality musical selections at a level that is appropriate for the OMEA District Band Contest. To achieve these goals, band members must be committed to working for excellence. The band program demands high expectations from its members and offers much in return. To this end, certain basic requirements are expected of the band members. This handbook will explain in detail these requirements.

You will be notified well in advance of all performances of the band and your attendance is required. You are expected to be on time for all performances and rehearsals. Anyone not prepared to play at this time will be marked as late and dealt with according to the regulations found in this handbook. Anyone missing a rehearsal or performance without a legitimate excuse will also be dealt with accordingly. This will be covered in detail later in this handbook. **Please**

check the dates in this handbook and make sure you do not have conflicts with any required performances.

Jazz Band

Jazz band consists of select 7th and 8th grade students. Selection is based from the director, chair placement and or audition. We will begin rehearsing one day a week beginning in mid-October on **Thursdays from 2:50 -4:10**. Auditions will be held in early October. If chosen for this group, attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

Band Parents Organization/Tag Day

The Band Parents Organization contributes to the band financially. The organization holds one mandatory fundraiser per year called Tag Day. The proceeds from this fundraiser purchase music, instruments and uniforms for the program. Attendance for this major event is mandatory for all students. Tag Day is Saturday, May 1st from 9:30 to 12:30.

Classroom grading system and rules

KIMPTON BAND GRADING POLICY:

There are three basic components to the Quarterly grading system in both the seventh and eighth grade bands:

WEEKLY DEVELOPING ASSESSMENT

CLASS PARTICIPATION

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT/ PARTICIPATION

WEEKLY DEVELOPING ASSESSMENT - 33% of total grade

MAROON: Students will be evaluated weekly in face to face rehearsal, OR an assigned recorded submission based on material covered in the weekly sectional in Google Meets/ Zoom.

GOLD: Students will be evaluated with a weekly recorded submission based on material covered in the weekly sectional in Google Meets / Zoom. Students will be given feedback through Google Classroom.

The purpose of these assessments is to hear the student's current ability and provide feedback to ensure improvement and success on their instrument. This is a **"developing" grade**, and feedback in the comments section should be followed. There should be noticeable improvement occurring from week to week.

CLASS PARTICIPATION - 33% of total grade

MAROON AND GOLD STUDENTS:

1. ALL MUST ATTEND WEDNESDAY GOOGLE MEETS/ZOOM SECTIONAL (Live preferred)

MAROON STUDENTS: Must also exhibit appropriate participation; defined as the following:

1. The student has his/her instrument and is in their correct chair within 2 minutes of the bell ending the previous class.
2. The student has all their required music, reeds and other items needed for that class. Woodwind players must have at least two extra reeds in their case at all times. One extra reed for oboes and bassoons is expected.
3. The student is making a reasonable effort to perform the music that has been assigned in class and to do what the teacher asks of them.
4. The student is listening to instructions, and not preventing other students from learning. When the teacher is in front of the class, proper participation includes not talking or disturbing the class in any way, as it is impossible to perform music properly if the student is doing these things.

In the case of a student not participating properly, a warning will be given by the teacher explaining what the student needs to do to correct the problem or behavior. If after the warning the problem persists, the student will lose Participation Points, serve a lunch detention, or have an office referral depending on the severity. Progress will be updated weekly and the student's grade will be affected if these areas are not adhered to.

Students are expected to attend class every day. This includes attending a team day/ALA vs. attending class, unless specific arrangements have been made between the student, teacher and Mrs. Sandman.

Students will lose points for the following:

Class tardy

Not prepared for class (no reed, music, mouthpiece, instrument, etc)

Failure to bring instrument and music home to practice

Maroon A-L Instruments go home Tuesday and bring back on Monday

Maroon M-Z Instruments go home Friday and bring back on Thursday

Unexcused daily absence (cutting class)

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT / PARTICIPATION - 33% of total grade

A **Concert or Performance Assessment** is a culmination and presentation of many weeks of hard work, learning, and practice. Striving for a successful performance is a focus throughout the quarter.

****As the state and county levels of Covid-19 continue to change, we are hopeful that we can investigate the possibilities of live performances throughout the school year in some format, either virtually or in person.**

IF WE HAVE PERFORMANCES:

****ALL PERFORMANCES AT KIMPTON ARE MANDATORY.**

****THIS IS DIFFERENT THAN LAKEVIEW****

Performances are worth 100 “weighted” points to equal 1/3 of their quarterly grade

Students will lose points for the following and it **WILL REFLECT IN THEIR GRADE:**

Unexcused absence from a performance – 100 points (1/3 of quarterly grade)

Inappropriate behavior during performance – up to 100 points

For an absence from a performance to be excused, a note from the parent/guardian of the student stating reason for absence must be given to the director a minimum of three weeks in advance of the performance. **This procedure does not guarantee an absence will be excused, but it will be considered. The final decision will be made by the director.**

IF WE DO NOT HAVE PERFORMANCES:

**** Students will be evaluated with a Performance Assessment recorded submission which could include 1 or more of the following:**

- “Chair Placement” Recording
- “Challenge” Recording
- “Exercise” from Book Recording
- “Concert Music” Recording

The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate musical material that is practiced for longer than 1 week. This should be a recorded sampling of music that involves more “in depth” practicing and is subsequently graded on accuracy.

The following scale determines the letter grade given for Band on the report card:

100 - 90 = A

89 - 80 = B

79 - 70 = C

69 - 60 = D

59 - 0 = F

Uniform Requirements

Concert Dress

Seventh grade and **Eighth grade** students will wear **black bottoms and black tops**. Boys must wear ties. **Jazz Band** students will wear the same. More detailed concert dress guidelines will come out as we get closer to performances.

Instrument Checkout

Those students who will be using a school owned instrument will be required to maintain the instrument properly and will be responsible for damage that is caused by them. Normal maintenance will be taken care of by the band. The band director will assign a specific instrument to each student as needed. **The instrument will be given to the student in working/cosmetic order and therefore will be returned in the same condition.** If you are using a school owned instrument it is strongly recommended that you purchase your own personal mouthpiece. Also, each student should have the supplies needed to take care of that instrument, such as valve oil, reeds, mouthpiece pouch or cap, or other items appropriate to the specific instrument. **No one is to play on or touch instruments that are not checked out to you or do not belong to you.** In some cases, students may have more than one instrument checked out. Instruments must be stored on the designated shelves or assigned floor space when they are left in the band room. If an instrument is continually abused, the instrument will be taken away permanently.

Student Owned Instruments

Clearly, the band will not be able to reach its goals if the instruments that the students perform on are not working properly or are of poor quality. Students are responsible for making sure that their instruments are cared for and in proper working order at all times. Make sure that there is always a tag or some way on the outside of the case to identify the instrument as belonging to you. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE STUDENTS TO PLAY INSTRUMENTS THAT DO NOT BELONG TO THEM OR ARE NOT CHECKED OUT TO THEM.** Violations of this will be dealt with severely. I strongly recommend that parents keep a record somewhere of the serial number of your instrument. It is also a good idea to check your homeowners insurance to make sure you are covered if the instrument is stolen. The school board does not have insurance to cover loss of band instruments. I will do the best I can to make sure the band room is as secure as possible. Please make sure that you have a high-quality mouthpiece that is in good condition. This is the best and most cost-effective investment you can make to be a good player.

All Clarinet and Saxophone players should be playing on a hard rubber mouthpiece. I suggest shopping online @ wwbw.com or amazon.com and compare with local stores. Recommended models are listed below:

Clarinet – Portnoy mouthpiece w/ Rovner ligature (dark) or Vandoren B45

Saxophone – Selmer C* or S80, Vandoren V5, Eugene Rousseau

Trumpet – Bach/Benge 5c, Trombone – Bach/Benge 6 ½ AL

If possible, it is recommended that you upgrade to an intermediate or professional line instrument. Your beginning instrument can be used for marching band. Please see me for a recommendation or check the band web page.

Band Dates for 2020-2021 School Year

-also always included in our band website <http://smfband.org/calendar/>

The following are the performance dates for the year. In this list, the performance time is the actual time of performance. Students will usually be expected to arrive 30 minutes before the performance to prepare. This will be announced during the week of the performance. **Please take this page out and put it on your fridge and/or place dates in family calendar.**

Wednesday, December 2 *Kimpton Band CONCERT 7:30 @ KP Gym

Thursday, February 25 *Kimpton Band CONCERT 7:30 @ KP Gym

**Monday, April 12 Freshman Orientation @ HS 7:00 (Mandatory for 8th grade)
AND Stow Band T Shirt Purchase (\$10) for those who need them**

Saturday, April 17 Solo and Ensemble contest @ Stanton Middle School

Saturday, May 1 Tag Day 9:30AM-12:30 PM @ HS

Monday, May 3 *Kimpton Band CONCERT 7:30 @ KP Gym

Friday/Saturday May 7 or 8 Middle School *BAND CONTEST @ TBA

Thursday, May 27 Marching Band Reading Session @ 3:00 (8th grade only @ HS)

***Attendance at CONCERTS (underlined above) is mandatory and makes up 33% of the nine weeks' grade. Please have these in your calendar for planning purposes!**

Any alterations to these dates will be posted on the band web site, and an email will be sent out at least a month in advance. You are responsible for being at all required performances.

Students are only permitted to discontinue band at the end of each Semester.

I am very excited to share many musical experiences with your child this year! Please take time to review this handbook, and then fill out the Handbook Completion Assignment in Google Classroom.