

Kirbyville Junior High

Band Handbook



2018-2019

Kirbyville Jr. High Band

WELCOME!

The Kirbyville Jr. High Band strives toward excellence and accomplishment; this requires cooperation and dedication from all the people involved: students, parents, directors, and administration.

The information included in this handbook is very important. All enrollees and their parents are requested to read it thoroughly and sign the appropriate forms indicating cooperation, understanding, and agreement with all the rules that are outlined within. Please read this, save it for reference, and sign and return the last three pages.

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop the technical skills necessary to play a musical instrument successfully in an instrumental organization.
2. To teach and reinforce the importance of setting and achieving goals, both individually and in a group setting.
3. To instill pride, discipline, and the ability to work with others.
4. Music is fun! But there is no fun in mediocrity. To insure the success of the group, each individual – student, parent and director – must be aware of his/her individual responsibilities and be willing to sacrifice individual desires for the betterment of the band.
5. The amount of fun and satisfaction you receive from the band will be no greater than the amount of enthusiasm and hard work you contribute.
6. Kirbyville Jr. High Band members will strive to insure proper conduct, consideration, and courtesy as a vital part of their participation – both in the rehearsal hall and when the band is in public.

ATTENDANCE

1. All scheduled practices and performances are mandatory. Perfect attendance is expected!
2. Personal illness, death in the family, and emergencies may be excused with a telephone call from the parent/guardian to the director. Special circumstances should be brought to the director's attention as soon as possible. Requests for excused absences ***should be discussed and cleared prior*** to the absence.

COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY!

3. Tardiness will not be tolerated! Every band member is expected to **BE ON TIME!**
4. The student is responsible for obtaining any information or materials that are presented during his/her absence or tardiness.
5. Performing musical organizations often require extra rehearsals and participation in concerts and contests. It will be the responsibility of members of the KJH Band to attend these rehearsals and performances unless excused by the director.

Kirbyville Jr. High Band

BAND STRUCTURE

JUNIOR HIGH BAND

This band will consist of all seventh and eight grade students. We will perform at concerts, pep rallies, football games, and parades. Students in this band are strongly encouraged to participate in All-Region tryouts and Solo & Ensemble Contest.

CONTEST BAND

This will be a group taken from the Jr. High Band primarily to participate in Concert & Sight-Reading Contest. Selection for this band will be based on several factors: participation in All-Region and Solo & Ensemble contests, attendance, grades, attitude, and playing ability. There are no set limits on size, but a balanced instrumentation will be necessary. An audition will be required.

BEGINNER BAND

The primary objective of this band class is to give each student the technical, physical, and mental skills necessary in a performing band.

INDIVIDUAL CONTESTS

These include: ALL-Region Tryouts
 Solo & Ensemble Contest

Members of the KJH Band will be encouraged to participate in these activities. They will require some outside practice time.

**** If your student auditions for and makes the All-Region Band, the Clinic and Concert in January **is a required performance.** This is a special honor that your student has worked hard for!****

Before and After School Lessons

Many schools offer private lessons that can cost up to \$60 a month. At Kirbyville, we offer 15 minute lessons before and after school for **FREE!** Each band student is expected to participate in a weekly lesson. There will be a sign up sheet in the band hall with many times available. Encourage your child to sign up quickly so they can get their desired time. Group lessons of no more than 4 are available as long as each student is playing at the same level.

CONCERT & SIGHT READING CONTEST

The Contest Band will perform at this event. It occurs late in the Spring semester. Uniforms will be worn for this contest. The band will provide tuxedo shirts, cummerbunds, and bow ties. It is the student's responsibility to provide **black dress pants, black socks and black dress shoes and a heavy white undershirt.** No heels, please!

Kirbyville Jr. High Band

Grading Policy

Daily Grades:

Participation- 20 points per class = 100 points per week

- Do you sit quietly and pay attention in class?
- Are you prepared to play your part your best today?
- Are you playing your best and focused on the lesson during class?
- Do I have my pencil today?
- Do I mark my music when the director tells me to?

Taking Instruments Home/Returning Horns to Band Hall = 100 points per week

- The key to improving your ability on your instrument is practice. You can't practice if you don't take your horn and your music home with you! Plus, if you don't have your horn at school, you'll be missing out on new skills taught during class.

Instrument Checks- 100 points per week

- Is my instrument in good working order? (Oiled, Slides move, etc.)
- Does my instrument go home every day?
- Do I have an extra reed at my seat?
- The only excuse for not having your instrument is that it is in the shop. We must have written notification. If the instrument is in the shop, please keep your mouthpiece (woodwind and brass), reeds, and ligature. If we have a loaner available your child will still be able to participate in class.

Test Grades:

Playing Tests- 100 points each

- Line tests
- Chair tests
- Music playoffs
- Region Music
- Solo Music

Written Tests- 100 points each

- Music Theory
- Musical Knowledge

Performances- 300 points each

- Pep Rallies
- Football Games
- Winter Concert
- Concert & Sight-reading Contest
- Spring Concert
- Parades
- Any other public performance

Kirbyville Jr. High Band

BAND HALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Be on time for rehearsals. This means you are in your seat with all needed materials. (instruments, music, pencils, extra reeds, etc....)
2. The bell **does not** dismiss class, the director does.
3. Drinks, food, gum and candy have no place in the band hall at any time.
4. Do not run or horse play in the band hall.
5. Excessive noise will not be tolerated during rehearsals. DO NOT TALK!
6. Students will play their own instrument exclusively.
7. Students will properly put away instruments and music after each rehearsal.
8. For safe keeping DURING THE SCHOOL DAY personal cubbyholes and music slots will be provided to each student. Instruments and music are expected to be stored in this location while at school. INSTRUMENTS ARE NEVER TO BE STORED IN ANY OTHER LOCATION ON CAMPUS.
9. Students will be expected to take their instruments and music home daily. They will receive a grade based on this activity.
10. Instrument and folder slots are to be kept clean at all times. They are intended to store instruments and music ONLY!
11. Supplies and instrument maintenance are to be taken care of outside of rehearsal time.
12. Woodwind players are expected to have an extra PLAYABLE reed at their seat at all times. Brass players are expected to keep their instruments in working order before rehearsal time: (valves oiled and slides movable).

BAND TRIP RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Unless there is a **pre-arranged** agreement, **all** members must travel **to** and **from** the destination with the group. The band director will only release a student to his/her parent or legal guardian when transportation is provided by the school. If you are going to be checked out by anyone else, arrangements must be made through the front office prior to the event. The parent or guardian must check the student out by signing the check out sheet.
2. You must travel to and return from each trip on the bus. An exception may be made if the parent files a written request with the principal prior to the event.
3. You must remain seated while the bus is in motion.
4. Excessive noise will not be tolerated on the bus.
5. Do not bring food items on the bus.
6. Instruments will not be played on the bus. This includes drumsticks.
7. Follow the instructions given by the director, chaperone, and/or bus driver.
8. Bring personal music devices at your own risk. NO EXTERNAL SPEAKERS.
9. Have PRIDE in Kirbyville Junior High School and The Kirbyville Junior High Band! ACT ACCORDINGLY!

Kirbyville Jr. High Band

BAND HALL PROCEDURES

- 1) Enter the Band Hall quietly.
- 2) Get out your instrument, music, pencil & put case back in your cubby hole.
- 3) Sit in your seat *without* disturbing the setup. Percussion, setup everything you will need for today's class.
- 4) Look at the board for the day's agenda. Quietly get music in order and wait for instruction.
- 5) Class is dismissed by the director not the bell. Neatly replace your instrument and all materials at this time.

FOOTBALL SEASON

The KJH Band will perform at designated home football games and pep rallies. An exact schedule for these performances will be sent home in advance. All members are required to attend. Uniform is KJH Band shirt, blue jeans and tennis shoes. During cold weather games a coat or jacket is acceptable.

PEP RALLIES

All band members will participate with the band during pep rallies at designated times. This includes cheerleaders, football players, and any other spirit group members.

CONDUCT AT FOOTBALL GAMES AND PARADES

1. Do not play any instruments except at the request of the director.
This includes percussion.
2. No artificial noise makers.
3. Remain in full uniform at all times.
4. Remain in the seat or position to which you are assigned.
5. Do not leave the band area without permission from the director.
6. Do not bring drinks, food, gum, or candy in the band section during performance time.
7. Pay attention to the director for instructions.
8. After the band marches back to the high school band hall you are dismissed. Directors will wait for you to be picked up **outside the High School Band Hall**. If you leave this location you will be responsible for yourself.

UNIFORM

Football Games & Parades:

The uniform for the KJH band will consist of Tennis Shoes, White Socks, Blue Jeans, and the official KJH Band shirt. This outfit will be worn at all football games and parades unless the director indicates otherwise.

Fall & Spring Concerts:

All students are asked to wear their **best** dress clothes for these concerts. A suggested outfit is as follows:

Boys: Dockers type dress pants or slacks, A nice collared shirt, and nice

Kirbyville Jr. High Band

dress type shoes.

Girls: A dress of modest length, skirt of modest length and a nice blouse, or nice pants and a nice blouse.

(Preferably no blue jeans, t-shirts or tennis shoes.)

Concert & Sight-Reading Contest:

The band will provide tuxedo shirts, cummerbunds, and bow ties. It is the student's responsibility to provide black dress pants, black socks and black dress shoes and a heavy white undershirt. No heels, please!

Any student who makes the All-Region Band will also wear this uniform to the concert.

HOME PRACTICE

Your child's progress in band will depend on what is achieved during daily home practice sessions. Learning takes place in school, but proficiency is gained at home. You can use the following guidelines to help your youngster at home.

Time Schedule. A half hour a day is the minimum amount of practice time recommended for the average student. Practicing at the same time every day is good, but some flexibility should be built into this schedule. Don't bring the world to a halt at 6:30 every evening because it's practice time. Kids need time for fun and relaxation just as adults do. If the situation merits, reschedule the practice session to an earlier or later time.

Climate. Practicing should be done in an area that is free of distractions, away from TV, radio, stereo, telephone, and family traffic. Good lighting, a straight backed chair, a mirror and a music stand are definite assets. Students should not try practicing while looking down at their music; this creates bad habits and embouchure problems. Clarinet and saxophone players should have several reeds available.

It's How You Practice That Counts. Incorrect habits are sometimes more easily developed than correct habits, and a habit is hard to change so THINK when you practice. Don't just go through the motions. Remember, the playing of your instrument comes through the development of coordination just like any athlete. Impatience is the enemy of the ambitious player.

1. Set a goal for the session, a scale, an exercise, a line or two of a tune, even a measure that's giving you trouble. Don't try to do too much at one sitting.
2. Isolate a problem or a section in your music. It may be a rhythm, a measure, a line. Work it slowly at first, then build up the speed gradually. Before you leave it, put it together with the rest of the line.
3. Repetition of a problem area, over and over, reinforces muscle memory.
4. When you get tired, rest.

Kirbyville Jr. High Band

BREAKING DOWN YOUR PRACTICE TIME

Material Practiced	Minutes	Goal
Long tones; easy drills; Breathing exercises; Lip slurs for brass	5 minutes	Warm up of embouchure and instrument, produce a good tone.
New material, individual improvement, assignments move ahead.	10 minutes	Develop new exercises, increase range, new song, new lessons in book.
Familiar exercises and Etudes.	10 minutes	Improvement of finger dexterity, tonguing, and overall fluency.
Personal music choices	5 minutes	Playing things you enjoy.

If you only hear things that they can already play, they are not getting the most out of their practice time and they will not improve.

Encourage your child. Spend some time listening to your youngster practice. Offer constructive criticisms, but choose your words carefully. "That sounds better today" is preferable to "Aren't you ever going to learn that?"

Please feel free to contact me to discuss your child's progress in band. You may contact me at my office during my conference period, or after 3:30 PM at (409)423-7514.

Kirbyville Jr. High Band

Handbook Agreement Form

I have read, understand, and agree to follow all of the rules in this handbook. I agree to follow these guidelines and in addition, to cooperate and show courtesy and respect to the directors and other students.

Students Name _____

Date _____

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

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TRIP PERMISSION FORM

I give my permission for my child _____ to participate in the KJH Band and all of the trips and activities which are required of this organization during the 2018 - 2019 school year. I understand that he/she will be adequately chaperoned during any trips. I also understand that normal precautions will be taken in the interest of his/her safety.

Kirbyville Jr. High Band

Parent/Guardian Signature

Home Phone #

Work Phone #

Information Sheet

Name _____
Last First Middle

Address _____
Street/Rt./P.O. Box City Zip Code

Home Phone _____

Father's Name _____ Work Phone _____

Mother's Name _____ Work Phone _____

Instrument _____ Serial Number _____

Brand of Instrument _____

Kirbyville Jr. High Band

School Owned Instrument? (Circle One) YES NO

Grade Level _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____
(PLEASE PRINT LAST NAME FIRST)

KIRBYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BAND CONSENT FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

Although every normal precaution will be taken to assure the safety of your child, neither the University Interscholastic League nor the school assumes any responsibility in case an accident occurs.

If, in the judgment of any representative of the school, the above student should need immediate care and treatment as a result of any injury or sickness, I do hereby request, authorize, and consent to such care and treatment as may be given said student by any physician, trainer, nurse, or school representative, and I do hereby agree to indemnity and save harmless the school and any school representative from any claim by any person whomsoever on account of such care and treatment of said student.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please list any allergies or special medical conditions of which the staff should be made aware.

Kirbyville Jr. High Band

Event Calendar 2018-2019

September 13	JH Football Game (Homecoming)	KHS Stadium
September 27	JH Football Game	KHS Stadium
October 18	JH Football Game	KHS Stadium
December 1	All Region Auditions	Lumberton H.S.
December 18*	KJHS Christmas Concert	KJH Gym
January 19	All Region Clinic/Concert	Nederland/Lamar Univ.
February 1 & 2	Solo & Ensemble Contest	Lumberton H.S.
April 2-4	UIL Concert and Sightreading	Groves M.S.
April 30*	KJHS Spring Concert	KJH Gym

*Date is subject to change, based on availability of facilities. Ample notification will be given, should these dates change