



Burleson Independent School District
Kerr Middle School

2011-2012
6th Grade
Band Handbook

A Tradition of Excellence

Band Directors

Anita Bergen
Angela Gipson

Website: www.kerrband.com
Email: kerrband@kerrband.com

Kerr Middle School Band

517 SW Johnson
Burleson, TX 76028
(817) 245-0750
www.kerrband.com
kerrband@kerrband.com

Dear Students and Parents:

We are pleased to offer band classes at Kerr Middle School and we are looking forward to continuing a tradition of award winning bands. Producing award-winning bands requires each student to accept certain responsibilities. This handbook is designed to inform you of those responsibilities and the policies and procedures of the Kerr Middle School Band.

You are a blessing and we are thankful that you have chosen to be a part of the Kerr Middle School Band.

Sincerely,

Anita Bergen
Angela Gipson

Phone: (817) 245-0750

Email: kerrband@kerrband.com

Website: www.kerrband.com

KMS BAND GRADING POLICY

The band grade consists of two parts:

The Work Ethic Grade and the Academic Grade

Academic Grade

The academic grade will be divided as follows:

Daily Grade (50%)

Rehearsal Grade

The daily grade will consist of 100 points earned each week (20pts. each day). Each student will begin each day with 20pts. Points may be deducted for any of the following:

- Failure to bring instrument (or sticks and mallets) to class -15 points
- Failure to bring music or other materials. This includes anything you need to rehearse without relying on your neighbor [pencil, reeds, mouthpiece, etc...] -10 points
- Poor posture or hand position while playing -15 points
- Lack of foot tap -10 points
- Refusal to rehearse in class -1 to -20 points

Practice Record

- Students are required to practice a total of 120 minutes per week. This is an average of 20 minutes per day for five days.
- **Practice time is recorded in the practice record notebook located in the band hall. The notebook will remain in the band hall at all times.** Each student will be responsible for filling out the practice log in the band hall every day.
- **Grades are determined by the number of minutes practiced. A student reporting 50 or less minutes on a practice record will receive a 50.**
- **Practice records are collected every Wednesday morning at 9:00am. Students will not be allowed to go back and record practice on the practice records that have already collected.**
- **Failure to fill out the practice record will result in a zero grade.**

KMS BAND GRADING POLICY – Con't.

Tests and Performances (50%)

- Playing/written tests
- Performances (***all performances are required***)
- Each performance will count as 2 test grades.

Work Ethic Grade

The work ethic grade will consist of 100 total points for each 3 week period. The two 3 week grades are averaged to make up the 6 weeks work ethic grade. Points may be deducted for any of the following:

- Each conduct mark -5 points
- An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a loss of all (or remainder) of the Work Ethic points (all performances are required) -100 points.
- Equipment or supplies not put in proper storage place after rehearsal or practice – 5 points

CLASSROOM RULES

General Rules

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Do nothing that interferes with the learning or the teaching of the class.
3. Follow all school rules stated in the Kerr Student Handbook/Code of Conduct.

Specific Rules

1. Enter the band hall in an orderly manner (no running, screaming, or shouting).
2. Be in your assigned seat with instrument, music, pencil, and necessary accessories within two minutes after the tardy bell has rung.
3. No talking or playing without permission during rehearsals. Raise your hand to ask a question of the director.
4. Respect all people and property.
5. No food, drinks, or gum allowed in the band hall.
6. Keep music slots, instrument storage areas, and band hall free of personal items other than instruments or music.
7. Touch your instrument **only**.
8. Keep your name clearly marked on your instrument case.
9. Do not tamper with another student's instrument, supplies, or personal belongings.
10. Put music and pencils only on the music stands (no feet or fannies).

CONDUCT MARKS

Conduct marks will be given for inappropriate behavior. A student can receive a conduct mark for any behavior deemed inappropriate by the director. Five points will be deducted from the Work Ethic Grade for each conduct mark received by the student.

***Trip points are also deducted for each conduct mark (see Page 9).

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR BAND EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

School rules apply whenever the band is at a school sponsored event or activity. Classroom consequences apply. In situations that warrant a discipline referral, the directors may choose to contact the parents and send the student home from the event or activity.

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE/ABSENCE POLICY

The band performs at optimum with all members present. Therefore, students are required to participate in all extra rehearsals and performances unless excused by the director.

Good communication between the director, student, and parents can prevent misunderstandings. Please read the following rules and contact the directors if you have any questions.

1. Written notice from parents is required for any absence from a performance. *Verbal or student written excuses are not accepted.*
2. Advance notices are required for all prior commitments. A prior commitment is defined as a date already committed to another event when the band's schedule is announced. *A notice of such commitment should be sent to the director the next school day after a scheduled concert date is announced.*
3. In the case of illness and/or family emergency, (e.g. something happens 30 minutes before a concert is to begin) it may be impossible to get in touch with someone. In such cases, please follow up with a written note as soon as possible after the fact. **This is the only category where absences will be excused the same day, or after the event.**

UNIFORM

Unless otherwise indicated, the uniform for all performances will be the Kerr Middle School Band t-shirt and khaki pants. The cost of the t-shirt is \$10.00. Failure to wear the uniform shirt to a band performance will result in a grade penalty and loss of trip points. Depending on the situation, the student may not be allowed to perform.

Shirts must be tucked in during performances.

MORNING AND AFTERNOON PRACTICE

Permission must be obtained from a director before using a practice room. Students may practice beginning at 8:00am. Students will not be allowed to congregate in the band hall before or after school. Anyone who is in the band hall, but not practicing will be asked to leave. The band hall will close at 4:30 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and 4:10pm on Wednesday and Friday.

REPAIRS

A representative from Johnny Paul's Music Shop comes to the school each week. If you have rented from a music store **other than** Johnny Paul's Music Shop, you will need to take the instrument to the music store. Johnny Paul's Music Shop will pick-up and repair all other instruments. **Please DO NOT take a school-owned instrument to a music store for repair. In doing so, you will assume the cost of any repair that might be covered by the school, or any repair done incorrectly.**

Johnny Paul's Music Shop
Representative – Doug Hazlewood
(817) 705-9663 cell

SUPPLIES

All supplies will be available for purchase at Kerr Middle School in the band hall. It is not necessary for you to drive to a music store to purchase supplies. Students may purchase one reed at a time on credit. That debt must be paid before another reed can be charged. We will keep records showing how much each student owes. All debts must be paid before a student's participation in any band competition or band trip. Please make all checks payable to **Kerr Band**. All money must be placed in an envelope with the student's name, amount of money enclosed, and item to be purchased. Envelopes are available in the band hall by the door of Ms. Bergen's office.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost items (clothes, books, etc.) will be placed in a large plastic tub located in the band hall. It is clearly marked. We will empty it at the end of each six weeks-grading period. Clothes will be taken to local charities. Books will be taken to the front office. All other items will be thrown away.

PRIVATE LESSONS

The Burleson Band program encourages students to study privately on their instrument whenever possible. Private instruction is available at the KMS band hall from teachers selected by the band directors and approved by the principal. Private lessons enable the student to participate in a one-on-one instructional session designed to meet his/her individual needs. Lessons are not required for participation in the band, however, it should be noted that most students who take advantage of this excellent opportunity benefit greatly. KMS directors work very closely with the private teachers in evaluating and monitoring each student's progress. Students enrolled in lessons will have one lesson per week at a cost of \$15.00-\$18.00 per lesson. Lessons may be scheduled during the school day (during band class) or after school. Please note: The greatest benefit from private lessons is realized over time. We suggest that private lessons be continued all the way through high school.

CHARMS MUSIC

You can find a link to the Charms Music website on our band website (www.kerrband.com). You will then be asked for your password. That password is the student's school ID number.

This will pull up the student page. You can make changes to contact information as well as being able to find important information concerning band events. All handouts will be posted in Charms. Trip points will be posted

SMART MUSIC

Smart Music is a web-based computer program that we will be using to assist students with practice and assessment. Smart Music is available on the computers in the band hall. Students must have director permission before practicing with Smart Music at school. Student subscriptions are available for purchase for home use at \$36 per computer.

KERR BAND BOOSTERS

The Kerr Band Boosters is a non-profit organization formed to provide financial support for the band program. They assist in providing funding for band activities, equipment and supplies. Our primary source of funds is from concessions. ***We need volunteers to help with concessions at Kerr Middle School football games.***

There is no membership fee for the Kerr Band Boosters. If you have a child in the band...you are a member!

There are more than enough parents to cover concessions if everyone works. We ask that each parent work at least one concession stand per year.

SANDY LAKE

Each spring, the 6th grade band competes in the Sandy Lake Band Festival. In order to qualify for membership in the Sandy Lake Band, a student must earn a total of 100 points from the list below. **Please note:** Points may be deducted for any reason deemed appropriate by a band director.

3 Points

- Instrumental music performance attendance (wind instruments or percussion instruments, BHS or CHS bands, FW Symphony, Texas Wind Symphony, TCU, UTA, etc.) Must bring a program to the director.

5 Points

- Each major scale passed off with 100% accuracy.
- Passing off chromatic scale with 100% accuracy.

10 Points

- Solo performance @ Kerr Solo & Ensemble Contest

20 Points

- Performing in Christmas Concert or any other scheduled evening or weekend performance of the KMS 6th Grade Band
- 1st division @ Burleson Solo & Ensemble Contest (solo or ensemble)

25 Points

- 100 in band on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th six weeks report card.
- Burleson High School Musical in February. The student must turn in a program with a Kerr staff member's signature on it to receive the 25 points. No signature on the program is only 3 points.
- Outstanding soloist award @ the Kerr Solo and Ensemble Contest.

50 Points

- Passing off all music for Sandy Lake with no mistakes.

Points may be deducted for the following:

5 Points

- Signing the "Book" for any reason (conduct marks, etc...)
- Tardy to Band Class

25 Points

- Detention assigned for inappropriate behavior

35 Points

- Office referral written by band director for inappropriate behavior

50 Points

- Unexcused absence from any performance of the KMS Band

*****You will be removed from the Sandy Lake Band for falling below 100 total points.**

*****Attendance at the band clinic (aka: the Hazlewood clinic) is required for Sandy Lake Band membership.**