



## Kelly Park School Band

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## 2023 - 2024 KPS Panther Band Handbook

Welcome and welcome back, new/returning Panther Band Families! This is your band handbook, which has all the information you need to know about class procedures, expectations, grading, school instrument information, and uniforms for performances. *There is a handbook agreement on the final page with some important information I need from YOU!* Throughout the year, please read through this handbook to see if it can answer the questions you have - if not, I'll be happy to help however I can. Looking forward to a fantastic FULL year with your students!

### Class Procedures

- 1) Come in with all supplies, a good attitude, and be ready to learn.
- 2) Be ready to start (i.e. quiet/focused) within two minutes after the bell rings.
- 3) Expect a daily group warmup, section-specific instruction, individual pass-off opportunities, music theory practice, and lots of group playing.
- 4) Try your best every day! Effort beats talent EVERY day of the week!!!
- 5) Be a good teammate - distracting or demeaning others will not be tolerated.
- 6) Understand that actions have natural consequences. Working hard in class will result in more learning and more fun; repeatedly acting out in class will result in a loss of instrument privileges for the day and communication with family.

### Expectations

I expect your students to be the most well-behaved, hard-working, compassionate, focused, respectful, team-oriented students on our campus. I know that may seem like a tall order, but they are ABSOLUTELY capable of it, and I will work diligently to teach them how to do that through the study of music. Of course, I understand that they are only 11-14 years old! 😊 But at an age-appropriate level, they will learn invaluable people/life skills through their study of music at a high level.

That said, here are our classroom consequences for when students aren't living up to the expectations we've agreed on:

- 1) First and second issue (talking, messing around, etc.) - verbal warning
- 2) Third issue - email/TalkingPoints message/call home; loss of instrument privileges and class participation points for the day
- 3) Fourth issue - office referral
  - \* Automatic office referral: bullying, physically/verbally antagonizing another student, taking student/school property, similar dangerous behaviors.

## **Grading**

Grades in all band classes are divided into a few categories: Daily Participation, Before/After School Rehearsals & Performances, and Playing Assessments.

**Daily Participation - 20%** Students earn their participation grade daily by arriving with all required materials, meeting class expectations, and actively participating in all theory/listening/playing activities. Students would lose participation points for missing materials, not meeting class behavior expectations, or refusing to participate. Consideration for excusal from any of these categories will be given on a case-by-case basis.

### **Rehearsals & Performances (Most Before/After School) - 30%**

Just like a sports team or most school clubs, meetings outside of class time are sometimes necessary. For instance, the Beginning Band classes are split up during the school day, so they must meet together at least once before each concert to be successful performing. Any outside rehearsals will be kept to an absolute minimum, with as much notice given beforehand as possible. The more advanced the ensemble (e.g. Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble), the more outside rehearsals can be expected. Still, this should only happen up to 5-7 times the entire year EVEN for the top groups. Absences will be dealt with on a case by case basis according to OCPS attendance policy. ***I understand that conflicts are sometimes unavoidable! Communication is essential, and we should be able to figure out a compromise. Please remember that a game/performance takes precedence over a practice, and a school event over a non-school event.***

**Playing/Theory Assessments - 50%** The vast majority of playing assessments will be individually-paced assignments done in class: from the method book, scale sheet, or other etudes/solos given to students. These "pass-offs" provide an excellent method for each student to improve their musical skills at their own pace. A certain number of pass-offs will be required per quarter, and any above that will allow students to excel, grow, and sometimes earn various small prizes.

## Financial Commitment

**The Band Fee for the year is \$50, and families are responsible for this and ensuring their student has the materials they need to be successful in class (instrument, reeds if applicable, instrument care supplies.)**

This provides:

- KPS band polo
- All sheet music; 2nd/3rd year students: binder/pencil pouch
- Registration for solo/ensemble performances, Honor Bands, various auditions
- Transportation to performances outside Apopka
- Rewards for pass-off work
- Skilled clinicians/music teachers to work with ensembles throughout the year.

We use both school and band-only fundraisers to keep families' financial contributions to a minimum. However, due to the cost of regular instrument maintenance, music, consumable equipment, registration for performances/events, and transportation to some events, some student contribution is also necessary. This also prevents us from having to run multiple fundraiser events throughout the year or asking students to sell cookie dough, candy, coupons, gift wrap, etc. 😊 **No student will be denied the opportunity to join the band purely because of financial hardship. Effort and communication are vital to making the situation work, but there is ALWAYS a way!!**

## School Instruments

School-owned instruments can be rented to students in two scenarios: either the student plays an instrument always rented by the school, or the family has a financial restriction that prevents them from being able to rent from a local music store. Instruments that are typically rented by the school are: **French horn, euphonium/baritone, and tuba. The rental fee is \$50 for the school year, payable through School Pay. Students will never be kept from band purely because of financial hardship. Effort and communication are vital!** KPS has only a few flutes, clarinets, trumpets, and trombones, so these instruments are reserved only for families with financial hardship preventing rental from a music store. 2nd/3rd year students may have the option to rent oboe, bassoon, tenor saxophone or baritone saxophone if Ms. Freeman approves based on ensemble need, student effort and skill level on their initial instrument. **Alto saxophone is not available for rent from KPS as a primary instrument.**

## Uniforms for Performance

A KPS Panther Band polo is included in the Band Fee. This is the required shirt for performances, unless otherwise stated. Students must obtain the following items separately:

- Black dress pants
- Black socks
- Black dress shoes (must be able to walk comfortably, high heels discouraged)

These items must be acquired before the Winter Concert. If a student is having trouble acquiring these items, they should see Ms. Freeman no later than 3 weeks before a performance.

## Note About Absences/Tardies

Communication with the band director via email before the event in consideration is required for the absence/tardy to be considered excused. This is especially important for performances in which a student's absence or tardiness affects other students and may require adjustments to be made. We will follow the OCPS attendance policy for band events, and address individual questions/concerns if they arise. *Families, please understand that suspension of participation in the band program (rehearsals or performances) while enrolled in the course should NOT be used as punishment for outside-of-class behavior. While likely intended as a motivator for your child, this negatively affects a student's entire class, as if a soccer team was suddenly missing a goalie. This will not be considered an excused absence if it occurs.*

## In General....

I am SO looking forward to this year and hope you are too. Your student will be in my Beginning Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, or Jazz Band, and will leave this Spring with a greater understanding of their instrument and music as a whole. Hopefully, they'll also leave with new friends and a better appreciation for others around them. Can't wait to share their progress with you!!!



# **Band Handbook Agreement Form**



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

Student T-Shirt Size: (Please Circle One) S M L XL Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian #1 Name (print neatly): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian #2 Name (print neatly): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Anything not covered above that you would like me to know about your student, please email at [julia.freeman@ocps.net](mailto:julia.freeman@ocps.net). This helps me tremendously!!*

**\*\*\*Please detach, sign, and return by Friday, August 18th, 2023.\*\*\***

PARENT/GUARDIAN AND STUDENT: We (student and family) have read the handbook and understand the requirements and responsibilities for membership in the Kelly Park School Band program. We understand the special policies concerning expectations, grading, attendance, attire, and behavior. If any questions arise, we understand that we can look back in the handbook (paper or online), and ask Ms. Freeman if still needing clarification. We agree to abide by all expectations, policies listed here, and those required by OCPS. We are excited to be a part of the Panther Band this school year!!!

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(STUDENT SIGNATURE)

## **Parent Involvement Opportunities:**

As a band parent, I am interested in helping with (circle any/all that apply):

- Administrative Tasks (organize forms, inventory uniforms, etc.)
- Chaperone (concerts/performances, etc.)
- Concerts (tear-down/equipment transport)
- Fundraising/Sponsorships
- Handy-Work/Minor Construction
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_