

Kernan Middle School Band 2015-2016 Student Handbook

Jordan R. Sawyer, Director of Bands

Julie Hemphill, Kernan Middle School Principal



“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit.”
- Aristotle

***“If you have integrity, nothing else matters.
If you don’t have integrity, nothing else matters.”***
- Dr. Jack Stamp

A Note to Parents

I am very glad to welcome you and your child to the Kernan Osprey Band Program. As you are certainly aware, the band program is a very complex system with a variety of activities and needs throughout the year.

This handbook was designed to assist you as a parent in understanding the many dimensions of the band program at Kernan Middle School. It is a living document, revised numerous times over the years as a result of parent inquiries and for purposes of clarification. Although the quantity of information contained herein might seem cumbersome to some, it should prove a valuable resource to you if and when questions arise related to your child and band.

Every student is very important to the Kernan Band, and I strive to provide nothing less than an outstanding musical experience for each child. To accomplish this, it is crucial that every student both understand and uphold his or her responsibilities as a member of the band. When this happens, students begin to understand the synergistic dynamics of a successful band whose whole is greater than the sum of its parts. By recognizing the individual's needs interdependently with - rather than independently of - the ensemble, greater potential is realized for everyone involved.

Please read through this handbook and help your child to understand its contents. I strongly recommend that you store this handbook in a safe place where you can easily access it throughout the year. Please refer to it before contacting me with a question, as you may well find the answer you need in the band handbook. I am always happy to answer your questions, but my priority is in devoting the maximum amount of our time and energy into meeting the daily needs of my students. Efficiency, therefore, is a very valuable asset.

Welcome again to the Kernan Osprey Band. I am looking forward to a fantastic year!

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Contacting the Band Director

The band director is available to meet the needs of all students in the Kernan Osprey Band program. Please do not hesitate to contact the director if you have questions or concerns not addressed in this handbook. The director field a large number of phone calls and email messages on a daily basis, so please allow 24 hours for a response to messages.

Jordan R. Sawyer

Director of Bands

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SawyerJ@duvalschools.org

Conference hours available 9:30am – 11:00am

Program Philosophy

The Kernan Middle School Band exists in a number of capacities within the overall school environment. As a curricular course in the State of Florida, band is an elective class with defined instructional objectives for the individual student. As a campus organization, the band enhances the aesthetic quality of life for all students and promotes school spirit and pride. As a part of the overall band program, the Kernan Band is the first part of a seven year journey culminating in membership of one of the surrounding High School Bands.

In serving these multiple roles, there are several key goals for student success. In the Kernan Middle School Band, students should:

- Perform proficiently on their instrument and as a member of an ensemble
- Develop the ability to understand and evaluate musical performances as an informed listener
- Develop an understanding of our musical heritage and recognize the importance of music in our culture
- Develop self-confidence and self-discipline by working as a team member
- Build citizenship traits through mutually respectful relationships with teachers and peers
- Build a framework for the lifelong appreciation of music

Statement of Responsibility

The Kernan Band Program is recognized among the top middle school music programs in the Duval. This level of success requires a great deal of collaborative effort among teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

By enrolling in the Kernan Middle School Osprey Band, you are making a commitment to the band as an organization and, more importantly, to yourself and the other students in the band. This commitment includes accepting responsibility for the following:

- Participate as a member of the band for a full school year
- Do your best to grow musically as an individual
- Maintain a positive attitude and support the goals of the band

Class Schedule

A Day			B Day		
Morning Sectionals or Tutorials	8:30 – 9:25	Varies by day. See separate rehearsal schedule	Morning Sectionals or Tutorials	8:30 – 9:25	Varies by day. See separate rehearsal schedule
1 st Period	9:30 – 11:00	S y m p h o n i c Band	5 th Period	9:30 – 11:00	S y m p h o n i c Band
2 nd Period	11:03 – 1:06	B e g i n n i n g Band A	6 th Period	11:03 – 1:06	B e g i n n i n g Band B
3 rd Period	1:09 – 2:39	E x p l o r i n g Music A	7 th Period	1:09 – 2:39	E x p l o r i n g Music B
4 th Period	2:42 – 4:15	Planning	8 th Period	2:42 – 4:15	Planning
Morning Sectionals or Tutorials	4:30 – 5:30	Varies by day. See separate rehearsal schedule	Morning Sectionals or Tutorials	4:30 – 5:30	Varies by day. See separate rehearsal schedule

Calendar of Events

Along with this handbook, each student will receive a calendar of band activities for the school year. All attempts are made to provide accurate information, but some adjustments to this calendar may have to be made during the school year. The director will provide updated information to students as soon as possible should the need arise. Students will be responsible for informing their parents of any changes to the calendar in a timely manner.

Students are required to participate in all scheduled band activities unless noted otherwise. Absences are only excused in accordance with established district criteria. Conflicts with non-school activities (sporting events, etc.) are not excusable reasons for missing a scheduled activity. Parents are encouraged to plan ahead to resolve any conflicts with scheduled band activities. Unexcused absences from a required activity can result in a lowering of the student's grade and/or disciplinary action depending on the circumstances.

Some individual events (District Honor Band auditions and Solo and Ensemble) allow for flexibility in scheduling for each student. Visit with your child's director if you anticipate a schedule conflict with one of these events.

Absence Procedures

Unlike most other academic classes, it is not possible to make up missed content in performance-based band classes. The art of musicianship is temporal, and it is necessary to be present in order to benefit from music instruction. Alternate assignments will be given to students who are absent in order to satisfy grade requirements, but there is no substitute for the information presented in class.

As stated repeatedly in this handbook, students are expected to attend all scheduled band rehearsals and performances. If it is absolutely necessary to miss a performance, a written note signed by a parent must be presented to the director at least 24 hours prior to a scheduled rehearsal and at least two weeks prior to any performance. The signed note must include the specific reason for the absence or it will be automatically considered unexcused. Emails are not acceptable forms of communication for these purposes. Unexcused absences may result in a lowered grade, loss of privileges, and/or reassignment to a different part or role within the band, including the role of spectator.

An absence from a performance or rehearsal will be considered excused if the absence is due to illness, family emergency (illness, death, etc.), religious observance, or certain school-related schedule conflicts. Non-school activities and transportation arrangements are not considered excused absences.

In the event of a sudden illness or family emergency prior to a rehearsal or performance, the student should call his or her director's school number and leave a message. A written note meeting the same criteria as in the previous paragraph may then be brought to the director following the performance.

The band is an interdependent organization. Every student is important to our success, and we cannot teach an empty chair. Please do not schedule non-emergency doctor appointments and similar events during your child's band class or other scheduled rehearsals and performances.

Parent Opportunities

There are a number of times throughout the year when we will need parents to help with planning events, chaperoning, and assisting with other aspects of the band program's daily operations. I would like to allow as many parents as are willing and able to help as volunteers to do so throughout the year.

Please mark on your child's Student Information Sheet if you are interested in assisting as a volunteer this year. Please note that parents who wish to chaperone must complete an online criminal history check. Information about how to complete this is located on the volunteer form.

Fundraising

The band is both a curricular course and a campus organization. In order to function as an organization throughout the year, the band does participate in fundraising activities. All money raised is used for the benefit of the students in the Kernan Band program. Unlike many other programs in the area, students in the Kernan Band are not individually required to raise funds or pay fees to offset expenditures. We do hope that, since every student benefits from the use of these funds, every student will participate in generating the necessary revenue. Donations are also gladly accepted in lieu of participating in fundraising for those who are interested. More information about fundraising procedures will be sent home at the start of our fundraising drives.

Course Objectives

In recent decades, research has supported what musicians have long understood. Music is a unique and essential element of human existence with numerous cognitive and physiological benefits to those who study it. Although there has long been evidence of the direct correlation of musical understanding to achievement in other academic areas, Howard Gardner was among the first to identify that music is in and of itself a separate form of intelligence. Since then, brain research has continued to reveal that formal study of music is one of the most powerful means of tapping students' cognitive and emotional potential. Furthermore, participation in an organized musical activity produces the same intrapersonal and interpersonal benefits long attributed to team sports and similar activities.

In accordance with established best practices and the philosophy of the Kernan Band program, students enrolled in band will be expected to demonstrate the skills listed below upon completion of the school year.

Students will:

- Perform successfully in formal concerts according to established criteria
- Demonstrate the correct posture and playing position for their instrument
- Demonstrate proper tone production and instrumental timbre for their instrument
- Demonstrate the physical skills necessary to properly perform their instrument
- Perform accurately and independently musical selections of appropriate difficulty
- Demonstrate proper breathing techniques required for playing a wind instrument
- Demonstrate understanding of proper articulation and stylistic markings and apply these to performed music
- Demonstrate understanding of all standard dynamic markings and apply these to performed music
- Demonstrate and apply common indicators of tempo
- Identify a variety of common musical terms and apply them to performed music
- Demonstrate knowledge of rhythmic notation and counting in a variety of meters according to accepted practice
- Demonstrate the ability to tune using both aural recognition and electronic measurement
- Identify the intervallic relationships of notes within major and minor keys
- Identify the inherent intonation flaws of their instrument as well as proper methods of compensation
- Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate both live and recorded musical performances
- Perform at least seven major scales and the chromatic scale by memory and without errors
- Demonstrate basic improvisatory skills while creating original music
- Demonstrate knowledge and application of proper instrument care and maintenance
- Demonstrate the characteristics of self-discipline both in class and at home as it relates to proper practice and execution of performance skills
- Demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively and collaboratively with students within a performing ensembleDemonstrate proper performance etiquette, both as a performer and as an audience member

Rehearsal Etiquette

Success in performance is directly proportional to success in rehearsal. A band will never perform better than it rehearses, and efficient rehearsals will lead to successful bands. There are a number of key factors that will help insure the success of our band program. In general, these can be summed up in one sentence:

Always be in the right place at the right time with the right equipment and the right attitude.

Specifically,

Always have a pencil on your stand during rehearsal for marking the music and correcting errors. Mistakes are inevitable, but to continue making the same mistake repeatedly is inexcusable.

Always be punctual. Tardiness is a sign of disrespect. We use real times in the Kernan Band program out of respect for our students and parents. The clock in the Band Hall is the standard time for the Kernan Osprey Band.

The only type of discipline that is truly effective is self-discipline. Every ensemble member is responsible for the success of the entire band. This includes the time when instruction is directed toward other students in the room. The following are special guidelines for rehearsal efficiency:

- Do not talk during instruction, even if the teacher is working with other students
- Keep your eyes on the director at all times
- Raise your hand after the director finishes speaking if you have a question
- Remain in the ready position unless you are told otherwise
- Answer questions with “sir” or “ma’am” as appropriate
- Concentrate and be ready to move quickly between tasks

Characteristics of a Kernan Osprey Band Member

I am a valued member of this band because of the unique qualities that only I possess.

Each day I choose to use my abilities to enhance my own growth and the growth of my classmates.

In every moment I will choose to behave in a manner that is consistent with my character.

In every situation I have the power to choose my response. My decisions will be governed by the set of principles that are central to my beliefs and character.

I am not a victim of anyone or anything. I have the power to create my own environment through the choices I make in every moment. I behave in exactly the manner in which I choose to behave.

Honesty is what I do when people are watching.

Integrity is what I do when people are not watching. I will strive to live with integrity at all times.

Grading Procedures

Band is a curricular course. As such, students will be graded on all activities pertaining to the established curriculum for the course in which they are enrolled.

Grades in band are calculated on a 100-point scale. A grade of 70 points or higher is required to pass each nine weeks grading period. Grades are calculated in the following manner:

Major (Test) Grades – 75%		Daily Assignments – 25%
Performance Objectives (50% of Major Category)	Summative Activities (50% of Major Category)	
• Nine-Weeks Goal Sheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal Performances (triple weight)• Playing Tests (double weight)• Written Exams (double weight)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practice Records• Weekly Preparation and Participation• Homework Assignments

Nine-Weeks Goal Sheet

Each student will receive a goal sheet for each nine-weeks grading period. Students are responsible for completing all of the indicated objectives each nine weeks grading period. A completed goal sheet will result in a grade of 100% averaged into half of the student's major grade category for the nine weeks. This equates to 37.5% of the overall average for band. If a student does not complete all of the indicated six-week objectives, his or her grade will be lowered based on the percentage of objectives completed.

Students will be given opportunities to pass off objectives during class. However, students who are not able to successfully complete their objectives during class may need to arrange for a time to play them for the band director before or after school. Some objectives require proper application of intonation skills and must therefore be played by two students together in order to demonstrate pitch matching.

Students are responsible for keeping up with their goal sheets. The goal sheet should be kept in the student's band binder at all times. Only the Band Director may sign off objectives. Private teachers may not sign off objectives.

Concert Evaluations

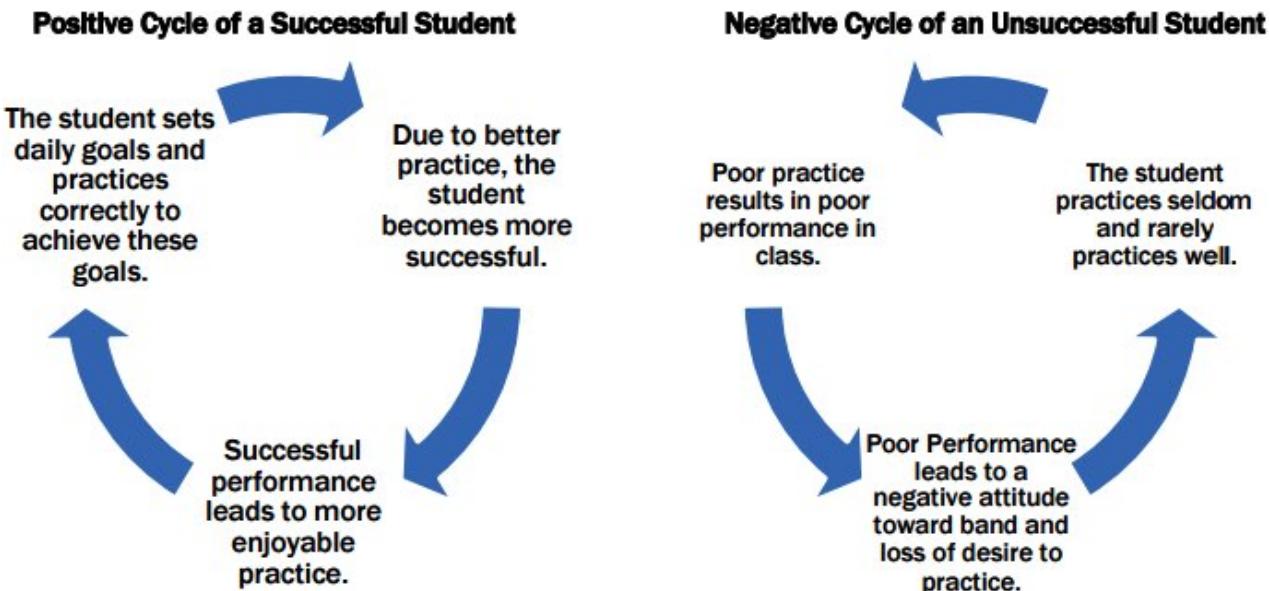
The Florida Standards for students in music courses requires students to demonstrate critical listening skills in both formal and informal settings as audience members. Students in the Kernan Band fulfill this requirement by attending at least one live, formal concert or similar musical performance each school year and completing a Concert Performance Evaluation sheet (available on the Website or in the Band Hall). This evaluation will be a major assessment on the fourth nine weeks.

Practice

Students who practice effectively are successful! Every student in the Kernan Band is expected to practice daily. Before and after school rehearsals are not considered individual practice time. Students wishing to excel will naturally practice beyond minimal expectations. It is only through consistent practice that students develop their musical abilities properly. **No instruments are to be left in the band hall overnight!**

Students will be given a practice report to be turned in with a parent signature each nine weeks. This practice report is not intended to let the director know whether or not a student has been practicing, as the director can usually tell by each student's performance in class whether or not he or she is practicing sufficiently and correctly. The purpose of the practice report is to involve the student and his or her parent in the practice process and to provide accountability for the completion of the required work. Practice reports are designed to promote quality practice and are due in class at the end of the nine weeks with parent signatures in ink. The director wishes to remind parents that character education is a top priority in our band program just as it is for most parents at home. Please promote integrity in your child by only signing an accurately completed practice report each week.

The director understands that students occasionally lose interest in practicing. During these low points in interest, it is both the director's and the parents' responsibility to help motivate the student to continue practicing until their interest returns. Some parents are concerned that "forcing" their child to practice will negatively affect their attitude toward music. This is untrue, however, since the single most detrimental influence on a child's attitude toward music is their inability to perform successfully. Lessening of practice time only perpetuates this negative cycle which is illustrated below along with a positive practice cycle.



Good practice habits will reinforce good performance skills. Poor practice habits will reinforce poor performance skills. It is important that students understand how to practice correctly and that they apply this knowledge in their daily practice routine. As a parent, ask your child what their practice goals are each day. This simple task will do a great deal to promote good practice habits. Read the "How to Practice" routine on your child's practice report to become familiar with the guidelines and expectations presented in class. Practice makes permanent. Perfect practice makes perfect!

Equipment Requirements

All Students will need:

- The appropriate method book for their instrument
- 1-inch 3-ring BLACK notebook with 10 plastic page protectors and 4 tabbed dividers
- Rehearsal pencil
- Music Stand (folding/TALL) for home
- Metronome & Tuner Apps are available for computer, phone, and tablet
OR
Korg TM-50 Tuner/Metronome (found at www.wwbw.com or local music stores)

All 7th and 8th grade students in the Kernan Osprey Band will need to have the following:

- A good, working, and **well-maintained** instrument from the approved list
- A Kernan Band Shirt (order forms to be made available)

In addition, each instrument in each band will have specific needs. These will be brought home by your child. Take them to the music stores and use them as reference when renting instruments and purchasing materials.

Notice of Financial Investment

I understand that band is a long term investment that may provide some financial challenges to members of our community. Should you need financial assistance in any way, it is important to reach out to me so that I can assist you in whatever way possible: it is never acceptable for a student to miss the opportunity to perform in band due to money. In some cases alternate equipment may be available, or there may be members of our community able to help. I know this can be a sensitive and difficult topic, but in order to best help all members of our organization, communication about financial need is a must. I will do everything in my power to ensure each student is given an equal music education. Should you need any help with the materials on this page, please contact me via email at SawyerJ@Duvalschools.org and I will discreetly and quickly work on this matter with you.

Step-Up Instruments

As students advance in their performing abilities, they often outgrow their beginning level instruments and/or mouthpieces. When this happens, the student's continued growth can be negatively affected by an inferior instrument. Upgrading to a professional quality instrument can be a very good investment for continued success. **Always contact Mr. Sawyer prior to purchasing any instrument for your child!**

The following step-up instruments are approved for use in the Kernan Middle School Band and all of the high school programs in Duval County:

Flute - Yamaha YFL-461H, YFL-574H, or YFL-674H

Clarinet - Buffet R-13 or Yamaha YCL-CSRV (either with Vandoren M13 Lyre mouthpiece and Vandoren M/O ligature)

Alto Saxophone - Yamaha YAS-875EX or Selmer "Super Action 80" (use Vandoren AL3 mouthpiece and Vandoren M/O ligature with either of these)

Trumpet - Bach Stradivarius 180-37 or Yamaha YTR8335 Xeno (either with Bach 5C or 3C mouthpiece)

Trombone - Bach Stradivarius 42BO, Getzen 1047F or 3047AF, or Conn 88HO (all w/Bach 5G mouthpiece)

In addition, the following advanced mouthpieces are recommended for students with school-owned brass instruments:

French Horn – Schilke 29

Euphonium – Schilke 51D

Tuba – Perantucci PT-36

Music Stores

There are several local music stores that can provide needed equipment and instrument repair and service. Please check our band website for a listing of current music equipment and sheet music retailers or contact one of the band directors if you need assistance.

Please speak with Mr. Sawyer prior to taking a school-owned instrument in for repair.

Fees and Other Expenses

There is currently no fee to participate in band aside from the costs of providing class materials and proper attire for performances. Throughout the year, however, there are certain extracurricular activities which do require nominal fees to cover the operating costs of the events. This information is provided only to assist in planning, and the exact amounts are subject to change.

- Instrument Storage Locker \$5 yearly fee
- All-State Honor Band (7th and 8th Grade Only):
- District Honor Band (7th and 8th Grade Only): \$10 entry fee
- Beginning Solo Showcase (6th Grade Only) \$5 entry fee per event
- Solo and Ensemble (7th and 8th Grade Only): \$6 entry fee per event plus accompanist fee
- Fieldtrips / Out of Town Performances Varies per event, participation selective
- Social Activities Varies per event, participation optional

Behavioral Expectations

All students in the Kernan Osprey Band will follow the following behavioral expectations during class and during before or after school rehearsals:

- Students may do nothing to interfere with the teaching or learning in the classroom
- Students are to demonstrate respect for themselves, others, and all property at all times
- Students are to enter the room on time and are to remain in the room at the beginning of class
- Students may only handle their own instruments. Leave no instrument unattended
- Food, drink (except water), candy, and gum are not permitted in any of the band rehearsal rooms
- Students are to keep the rehearsal rooms neat and tidy
- Instrument storage lockers are to be secured at all times
- Instruments are to be taken home every day
- Running and/or horseplay are not permitted at any time

Consequences for Misbehavior

Misbehavior will be handled according to district and campus policy. In addition to standard disciplinary measures, band students may lose playing privileges or be demoted in band placement as a result of misbehavior. Students are reminded that band is most enjoyable when everyone is participating and achieving, so we hope that behavioral problems will be kept to an absolute minimum.

Music Facility Usage

Band students are welcome and should feel comfortable in the band hall and ensemble rooms. In the interest of providing quality instruction as well as maintaining safety and security, the following special guidelines must be followed when using the music facilities:

- Only band students are permitted in the band hall or ensemble room.
- Students should not interrupt morning or afternoon rehearsals in the band hall
- Students are not to play in the hallways or in other parts of the school without director permission
- Music stands and chairs are to be used appropriately at all times

Practice Room Guidelines

There are four practice rooms in the band hall. These rooms are available for students with the band director's permission only. Students using a practice room must abide by the following guidelines:

- Practice rooms are for practice and private lesson use only
- Food, drink, candy and gum are not permitted in the practice rooms
- Students may not exceed the posted occupancy for any practice room
- Any equipment moved into a practice room must be returned to its original location when finished

Instrument Storage Lockers

Each student, with the exception of tuba players, may be issued an instrument storage locker with a combination lock for a yearly fee of \$5. These lockers are for the secured storage of instruments only. For safety and security reasons, lockers must be secured at all times except during the student's band class. Please note that locks are to be fastened overnight when the locker is empty as well.

Lockers are to be kept neat and orderly at all times. No personal items are to be kept in the instrument storage lockers. No instruments other than tubas and baritone saxophones may be left overnight.

Any student who voluntary enters an instrument storage locker will be immediately referred to the office for disciplinary action without exception. Any student who participates in the act of placing another student in an instrument storage locker will also be referred to the office for disciplinary action without exception.

Section Rehearsals

Periodically, section rehearsals will be called for students of certain instruments. These rehearsals will most often be before school, between 8:30 and 9:25 am and will be scheduled with the needs of the students in mind.

Section rehearsals are an opportunity for Mr. Sawyer to work with students of one instrument type on very specific goals to aid in the achievement of performance goals. Students who are unable to attend section rehearsals will be required to schedule another time to meet with Mr. Sawyer to make up the time - schedule accommodations will be made pending transportation and/or extenuating circumstances.

Due to the spread nature of section rehearsals, students will be informed **TWO WEEKS PRIOR** to rehearsal dates to allow for necessary arrangements. It is the responsibility of the student and their parents to communicate scheduling conflicts, transportation issues, etc.

Performance Requirements

Band is a performance based curricular course. There will be several concerts scheduled throughout the school year. **Students must attend all performances, whether they are curricular or extracurricular.** Please check the band calendar and make necessary arrangements as early as possible. Please remember that non-school activities, other than religious observances, are not excused reasons for missing a performance.

Curricular performances will be graded as major test grades and will be weighted three times in the student's nine-week average. If the student is on time, dressed appropriately, has all materials, and demonstrates proper performance etiquette, a grade of 100 will be awarded. The following conditions will result in a lowering of the student's grade as indicated:

Failure to follow performance procedures = depends on severity of infraction

Late to warm up = 15 point reduction

Minor attire problems = 15 point reduction

Major attire problems = Student will not be seated. Maximum grade of 50 awarded

Missed warm up = Student will not be seated. Maximum grade of 50 awarded

All band students are expected to attend one performance as an audience member each school year. Following an approved performance, the student must complete a performance evaluation form and return it to the band director with a parent signature within one week of the performance. This evaluation will be 20% of the student's final exam average. The director will provide a list of suggested performances to satisfy this requirement.

Performance Attire

Students in the Kernan Osprey Band are to be appropriately dressed for all performances. The following requirements for performance attire are consistent with district and state guidelines. Please note that the attire category for each performance is indicated on the calendar of events provided with this handbook.

Informal Concert Attire

- Band shirt worn tucked in
- Blue jeans and a black belt
- Athletic or similar closed-toe shoes (no flip-flops or sandals)

Beginning Band Formal Concert Attire

- Band shirt worn tucked in to Black dress slacks and a black belt
- Black socks crew length or longer. No skin should show when the student is seated
- Black dress shoes. No athletic shoes, sneakers, or sandals

Symphonic Band Formal Concert Attire

- Black, collared long-sleeved dress shirt, button down, with no logo, worn tucked in.
- Black dress slacks with a black belt
- Black socks crew length or longer. No skin should show when the student is seated
- Black dress shoes. No athletic shoes, sneakers, or sandals

Concert Etiquette

Concerts are the culmination of much student effort and are necessary to meet state, district, and school requirements for band. More importantly, concerts are an opportunity for students to demonstrate their talents for an appreciative audience. For this reason, it is very important that both students and listeners observe appropriate concert etiquette during any musical performance. Please review the following guidelines prior to our first concert:

- Dress appropriately for the performance. Concerts are formal events unless noted otherwise
- Turn off all mobile phones (no texting) and other portable electronic devices during the performance unless they are being used for personal recording of the performance
- Food and drink should never be brought into a performance area
- Refrain from talking while the director is on the stage (This is the cue to start)
- Only enter or leave the seating area during applause
- Do not take flash photographs while the group is playing (before and after is fine)
- Crying or fussy children should be taken to the lobby area

Students and the director have worked very hard for each performance and gratefully value your approval as demonstrated by your applause. The following are some guidelines to consider in recognizing a quality performance:

- It is appropriate and polite to applaud as the conductor approaches the podium
- During a multi-movement work, applaud at the conclusion of the final movement
- Do not applaud for soloists during a full band concert performance; however, it is appropriate to applaud for soloists during a marching band or jazz band performance
- Avoid shouting, heckling, or whistling during applause
- For an exceptional performance, it is always appreciated when the audience stands in applause following the final selection. This is known as a standing ovation

The Band Office

Students are not permitted in the band office unless the director is present. When the office doors are open and the director is present, students may enter after knocking. If the door is closed, please knock and look in the window for the director to motion you to enter. You may be asked to wait if the director is in the middle of something that cannot be interrupted.

The telephone in the band office is for official band business only. There is a telephone available for student use in the front office.

Schedule Changes

Band is a full-year course. Students who sign up for band are making a commitment to the students in the organization to participate for the entire academic year. Students may not drop band after the second week of school unless there is an extenuating circumstance as specified by the principal and approved by committee. Students may be changed from one level of ensemble to another if such a change is academically appropriate or to balance the size or instrumentation of the ensembles.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are the best way to improve performance skills on a musical instrument. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from the individual attention that cannot be matched in a large classroom setting. A recent survey of students in the All-State Band revealed that 80% of those students in the band studied privately. Simply put, private lessons work!

At Kernan Middle School, we encourage parents to consider private lessons for their child. Please consult the director for recommendations of instructors.

Quality Instruments

Although some people think off-brand products are improving, they are generally very inferior to the established music lines. I find it better to avoid them entirely. Quality instruments give your child a much better chance to succeed. Some of the off-brand names are so bad that I will not allow students to begin on them. They are made of cheap metal and poor materials that are not durable and play out of tune. Worse, no repairman can find any parts for these “economy” instruments when they need repair (and they will need repair). Below is a list of the preferred instruments for the Kernan Osprey Band Program. I recommend these instruments because of their history of quality craftsmanship, high-grade materials, and the recommendations of the finest teachers. You may rent these instruments with confidence.

Flute	Oboe	Clarinet	Alto Sax	Trumpet	Trombone
• Yamaha 222 • Pearl 525	• Yamaha 241	• Yamaha 255 • Buffet E11 • Selmer 211	• Yamaha 26 • Jupiter 767G	• Yamaha 2330 • Bach 200	• Yamaha 354 • Yamaha 350C • Bach 200

Instrument Insurance

The Duval County Public Schools, Kernan Middle School, and the Kernan Middle School Band staff are not responsible for loss or damage to any instrument. Parents are encouraged to consider musical instrument insurance.

In many cases, your homeowner's or renter's insurance may cover your instrument. In addition, a very affordable insurance option is available through an independent carrier. Information about this insurance is available from the band staff.

Student Recognition

It is our belief that one student does not make an award-winning band, but that many students working together to do their best will undoubtedly result in success. Consequently, the Kernan Band director makes an effort to recognize students who contribute to the band program through their efforts from sixth through eighth grade.

Students may receive individual recognition by participating in the All-State Band, All-District Band and/or by receiving a first-division rating in solo and small ensemble. The director will provide more information on these activities at the appropriate time.

Cultural and Ethnic Music

One of the greatest qualities of Kernan Middle School is its diversity of cultural and ethnic backgrounds among its student population. The Kernan Middle School band appreciates this diversity and strives to be sensitive to the interests of all students. From time to time, band students may perform music relevant to cultural, seasonal, historical, or patriotic events. We encourage all students to appreciate both the musical and cultural value of such music, but will not infringe upon the rights of students. We do request that any parent with a concern about any programmed music discuss the matter with the director prior to the rehearsals or performance of the music.

Off-Campus Travel

All school rules apply to any off-campus event sponsored by a school organization, including the band. Students who fail to comply with the rules or with the director's instructions will receive appropriate consequences. Contact the director if you need clarification of this policy.

Once a student leaves the school with the band, that student must remain with the band until the group returns to the school. If parents desire that their child travel by alternative means to or from an event where school travel is provided, an Alternate Transportation Form must be approved by the director and on file **before departing from the school**. Students with appropriate documentation on file must check in with the director before separating from the group. **A Handwritten note or verbal authorization cannot be used in place of an Alternate Transportation Form.** Please note that Duval County Public Schools policy prohibits students with Alternate Transportation Forms from traveling with anyone other than a parent or legal guardian.

Special Trips

One of the highlights of our program is the opportunity to participate in several special trips throughout the school year.

Selected band students will have the opportunity to travel to and perform in a special band festival. In addition to high performance standards, students must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the special festival trip:

- Attend all scheduled rehearsals, except for excused absences (illness, etc.)
- Receive no office referrals in band all year
- Spend no days in ISSP all year
- Maintain a positive attitude
- Obtain a band shirt
- The student has no band grades below 70 all year
- The student has no unexcused absences from any performance
- The student has not been academically ineligible more than once during the year

Assessment and Communication Software

The Kernan Osprey Band uses several platforms to communicate with parents and students and to provide assessment - especially for students motivated to excel. The director will use REMIND - a communication app - to post announcements, updates, and provide forms and links relevant to class. Sign up for REMIND can be done at the website www.remind.com. The band REMIND account is @KernanBand. This is a free tool for students and parents. There is an app for iOS and Android in the respective app stores, the app is free.

The Kernan Osprey Band will use SmartMusic, an assessment tool, to test and assess student progress. A SmartMusic account can be purchased at www.SmartMusic.com. This is a \$45 yearly subscription.

The Kernan Osprey Band Website

The Kernan Osprey Band website is www.kernanband.wix.com/band and has the MOST up to date information about the current band year, forms, documents, and resources for parents and students.

Social Events

We organize several social activities for our band students throughout the year. In order to participate in any social event, students must be academically eligible. Students who have demonstrated behavioral problems may be excluded from social activities as deemed appropriate by the band director or campus administration.

Social events may require certain fees, and attendance is always optional. A sufficient number of parent chaperones will be needed for supervision at all social events.

Information about social events will be sent home in advance of any scheduled activity.

IMPORTANT: Students need to be picked up on time from all social events. Any students who cannot be picked up at the indicated time for the social event should not attend the event.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this handbook is intended to be accurate at the time written, and is subject to change. Please contact the director if you need clarification of any material presented in this document.

Kernan Osprey Band Guidelines for Extracurricular Activities

Students involved in extracurricular activities are held to a higher standard of conduct than the general student body. Kernan Middle School views participation in extracurricular activities as a privilege not a right. Any student who violates the Student Code of Conduct shall be subject to extracurricular discipline and/or regular school district disciplinary action. This includes any misconduct - regardless of time or location - that would reflect negatively upon representing Kernan Middle School in an extracurricular activity. Students clearly involved in major disciplinary infractions (i.e. including, but not limited to, drugs, alcohol, and violent behavior) will be placed on probation, removed temporarily, or permanently from extracurricular activities. Seasons of extracurricular activities may vary and could extend into the next school year. Discipline action may affect eligibility for the next season.

The student may be dismissed from the extracurricular activity upon any major infraction, or during a probationary period. Prior to being dismissed from extracurricular activities, the student and parents will be notified of the reasons for the action. The student or his/her parents will be afforded the opportunity of a hearing with the sponsor and principal. The appeals process will be outlined at that time. Request for an appeal must be done in writing within 5 school days at each level of the appeals process. The student will not be eligible for any individual or team recognitions or awards that occur after the date of dismissal.