

Kilgore High School

Band Handbook



Cliffton Walker - Director of Bands

Don Gamble - H.S. Assistant Director

Rance Hawthorne - M.S. Head Director

Tiffany McWilliams - M.S. Assistant Director

Our Goals

- To promote self-discipline, responsibility, cooperation and loyalty
- To develop a strong sense of fellowship
- To encourage a desire and appreciation of excellence in performance
- To provide opportunities for students to improve their knowledge of music through performances
- To allow students the means to express themselves creatively
- To encourage a strong work ethic

Director Note

No goal mentioned above is attainable without a strong bond with your fellow band members, a desire to strive for perfection and a genuine love for music. We meet each year with a fresh blend of personalities, talent and obstacles; each of us must use our own innate abilities and learned knowledge to overcome these obstacles. If every member of this family of musicians strives for his/her absolute best at all times, no goal is out of reach. Failure and success alike help us grow and mature; take advantage of these moments. Treat each moment as an opportunity to make something incredible happen.

Each of us is an integral part of this organization; this includes band members, directors and families. We must work as one to attain our goals and reach success.

Cliffton Walker - cwalker@kisd.org

Don Gamble - dgamble@kisd.org

903.988.3901 ext. 2122

Membership

Membership in the Kilgore High School Band is open to all 9th-12th grade students who begin their membership in the band program at Kilgore Middle School. Other students may enroll upon audition and approval by a director.

Summer Band Camp

Summer Band Camp is required of all students who enroll in the High School Band. Attendance is crucial during these weeks of preparation. Excused absences must be approved in advance.

Attendance

All members of the Kilgore High School Band are required to attend all rehearsals and performances. This includes evening rehearsals, sectionals, football games, concerts and parades. Absences are outlined in the Grading Policy Section.

Discipline

Maintaining exemplary behavior at all times promotes success and fosters personal and professional growth within the band. As outlined in the Grading Policy section, disciplinary action will be taken for the following infractions:

- Any disrespectful behavior toward adults or fellow students
- Consistent tardiness or absences from rehearsals
- Abuse of instruments or other school property
- Other infractions stated in the school handbook

Grading Policy

Each six week grading period will consist of the following:

1. Rehearsal/Daily Participation.....Daily Grade
 - 100 possible points per rehearsal
2. Music Pass-Off.....Quiz Grade
 - 100 possible points per selection/section
3. Performance Participation.....Test Grade
 - 100 possible points per performance

Rehearsal/Daily Participation

Students must attend each rehearsal with the required equipment and make a genuine effort to learn and improve daily. Tardiness, unexcused absence or failure to bring all necessary equipment (music, instrument, pencil, correct footwear, etc.) will result in lowered grades or a zero.

Performance Participation

Students must attend performances with the required equipment and attire. Tardiness, unexcused absence or failure to bring all necessary equipment/attire will result in lowered grades or a zero.

Music Pass-Off

Students will be required to pass off small selections from their performance literature. Perfection is not expected, but continual improvement is. Failure to attempt a pass off or lack of effort will result in lowered grades or a zero.

Continual failure to participate, perform and/or pass off will result in a failing grade and/or dismissal from the program.

Please also refer to the TEA UIL Side By Side No Pass-No Play guidelines regarding academic requirements for eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities.

<https://www.uil texas.org/files/tea-uil-side-by-side.pdf>

Grading Policy - Continued

Discipline

Failure to maintain exemplary behavior will be reflected in each category resulting in disciplinary action. The procedure is as follows:

First Offense.....verbal reprimand

Second Offense.....verbal reprimand, parent/guardian contact

Third Offense.....office referral, parent/guardian contact

During the Fall, a third offense will result in suspension from that week's performances (Pep Rally, Friday Game, etc.). The student must attend as a member, but will not perform.

A major infraction of a school handbook rule could result in dismissal from the band program.

Absences

Students may be excused from a rehearsal or performance for the following reasons: school sponsored activities, sickness (parent/guardian or doctor note required) or family emergencies (parent/guardian note required). All students participating in extra-curricular activities share responsibilities equally between organizations.

An unexcused absence from an evening rehearsal or a performance will result in a zero and removal from the half-time block.

Band Hall Rules

- Know when to talk and when to listen.
 - When a director is on the podium, do not talk.
 - Always raise your hand before speaking.
- The Band Hall is to be used for an academic/musical purpose only.
- No cell phone/mp3 player/tablet use during rehearsal.
- No food/drinks allowed during rehearsal. Food/drinks are allowed during breaks.
- You are responsible for throwing away your own trash.
- No gum in the Band Hall.
- The Band Hall is your room; keep it clean!
- Hats are not to be worn in the Band Hall.
- You will need your music, instrument and a pencil at every rehearsal!
- If you are missing an item, ask before class begins. Do not ask during rehearsals.
- Respect others and their property; treat others as you want to be treated.
- This band is only as strong as its weakest member - give your 100%.

Uniforms

Military Uniforms

The full West-Point style uniforms are provided by the school. Students will be fitted for a uniform during the registration process. The uniforms must be returned following the last performance of the school year. The student is responsible while in possession of the uniform (proper hanging, drying and dry-cleaning). The uniforms will be cleaned each summer before they are issued.

Uniforms parts provided:

- Coat
- Bib pant
- Cross-Belts with all hardware (two buckles & breast plate)
- Shako
- Plume
- Garment bag

We use traditional white band shoes (Drillmaster, Speedsters, Dinkle, etc.). These are purchased by the students during the registration process. White crew or knee socks are also required. Students will undergo a uniform inspection before each performance. All hardware should be polished. Shoes and socks should be clean and bright white.

Warm Weather Uniform

During the first few summer performances, the uniform coat may be removed at the director's discretion.

The Kilgore High School band t-shirt is to be worn at every performance, even under the military uniform. This ensures uniformity if we remove the coats. The t-shirts are ordered with the shoes during the registration process.

Travel Policies

Travel by Bus

Throughout the year, we travel using school transportation. Normal Kilgore ISD rules and bus policies apply during these trips.

- Any infractions of ISD rules will be handled as if we are on campus.
- Only bottled drinks with caps.
- Stay seated when the bus is moving.
- When we arrive at our destinations, stay seated until instructions are given by a director.
- Return the bus in better condition than when we loaded. All trash must be placed in a trash bag.

Travel with Family

We will always travel to performances as a group. However, release forms are available to parents/guardians who would like to take students home from the performances in a personal vehicle. Students may only ride home with their parents/guardians unless prior notice is given to a director (in this case, students may only be released to other parents/siblings). Students are still responsible for their equipment.

Equipment

Each student is responsible for his/her own equipment when we travel. This includes uniforms, instruments, music and accessories.

Alternates

Alternates are held to the same responsibilities, but they will not march with the block band during half-time shows. Standard grading policies apply. A student may become an alternate due to the following:

- Failure to attend Summer Band Camp without prior notice
- Failure to pass off music
- Failure to maintain sound disciplinary behavior
- Unexcused absence from rehearsals and/or performances
- Failure to maintain effort

Alternates may earn a position in the half-time block by issuing a challenge to a section member in the block. Challenges will consist of marching and playing tests carried out on Monday evenings prior to full band rehearsal. Challenge forms are available in the band office. In addition to a successful challenge, alternates must show improvement in the category previously neglected.

Loading Crew

Eight students will serve as the Loading Crew. Loading Crew members will be responsible for overseeing loading & unloading of equipment (instruments, coolers, accessories, etc.). They must provide the directors with a completed checklist before each departure.

Drum Major

The position of Drum Major of the Kilgore High School Band is open to any current band students entering 10th-12th grade. Students must maintain excellent academic standing and honorable discipline. The Drum Major acts as a representative and leader of the organization, facing great responsibility. Auditions are held in the Spring semester. A separate handbook outlines all guidelines regarding the position and the audition procedure.

Twirlers/Colorguard

The High School Twirling and Colorguard lines are open to any current band student entering 9th-12th grade. Students must maintain excellent academic standing and honorable discipline. Auditions are held in the Spring semester. A separate handbook outlines all guidelines regarding the positions and the audition procedure.

Letter Jackets

High School Band members may qualify for a letter jacket through various means. A senior student enrolled in his/her 4th year in the High School Band will receive a letter jacket in the Fall. A student may also “letter” early by earning 100 points through the following achievements:

- Serving as a Section Leader.....20 points
- Serving on Loading Crew.....20 points
- Earning a chair in the All-Region Band.....40 points
- Earning a 1st Division at Solo/Ensemble.....40 points
- Qualifying for Area Band.....60 points
- Earning a chair in the All-State Band.....100 points
- Earning a 1st Division at State Solo/Ensemble.....100 points
- Awarded position as Drum Major.....100 points

Kilgore High School Band
Parent/Guardian/Student Information

Student Name: _____ DOB: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Student Phone: _____

Parent E-Mail: _____ Student E-Mail: _____

Known Allergies: _____

Known Medical Conditions: _____

Current Medication: _____

Insurance Company: _____

Insurance Phone: _____ Policy/Group Number: _____

Medical Release

I, _____, give my consent for medical care or treatment to be administered in the event that the above student becomes ill or injured while participating in any band activity. An attempt to contact me will be made in such an event.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Handbook Acknowledgement

I have received a copy of the Kilgore High School Band Handbook. I have read and reviewed the content. I understand the expectations that are to be upheld by my child and will encourage him/her to abide by the policies set forth in the handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

I have received a copy of the Kilgore High School Band Handbook. I have read and reviewed the content. I understand that membership is a privilege. I know that by signing this form I have agreed to uphold the expectations set forth in the handbook. I assume the responsibilities as an integral member and will strive for excellence.

Student Signature

Date