

A decorative border consisting of a continuous line of musical notes, resembling a treble clef staff, framing the entire page.

Kaneland Harter Middle School

2023-2024

8th Grade

Band Handbook

Philosophy

The purpose of the Harter Middle School Band program is to help each student develop his/her musical potential and performance abilities. The goal is to educate each student, within the framework of the school day, to become an accomplished musical performer. Students will be exposed to a variety of musical styles. They will also learn about rhythm, notation, scales, harmony, and intonation. As 8th graders, students will be expected to perform at their highest ability. Students will learn techniques that they will apply to their performance as high school musicians.

The student's responsibility is to apply the techniques and concepts addressed during band and lessons to their practice at home. Their personal responsibility will benefit the entire group. They must always remember that they are one piece of a very important puzzle. A puzzle is not complete without all its pieces and their piece is as important as every other person's in the band.

Also, by being a member of the Harter Middle School Band, the students are committing themselves to the group for the full school year. Refer to the Student Handbook if there are further questions pertaining to this.

Rehearsals

- If you are enrolled in band and chorus, Full Band days will be Mondays and Thursdays and an occasional Wednesday. Please refer to the rehearsal calendar in Canvas and on the Band bulletin board outside of the band room.
- If you are enrolled in only band, you will meet every day you are attending school.
- Rehearsals are for fixing ensemble issues, individual practice should not be done during band.

Rehearsal Procedure

- Rehearsal will begin two minutes after the bell rings.
- There is no gum or food allowed in the band room.
- All cases will be placed by the students' chairs in the band room. During rehearsals, only cases will be stored in the cubicle room.
- When any director steps onto the podium all noise should stop. No playing and no talking. Your attention should be on the director immediately.
- Anytime you are in the band class, strive for being the best that you can. Expect only the best from yourself!
- I expect each member to behave according to our Kaneland Core Values, those being Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Citizenship and Commitment to Excellence.

Enrollment

Band is a full-year course. Students may only drop band during the first week of the semester. Students will not be allowed to drop band after the first week of the semester. Since it is very disruptive to have students leaving during the middle of semesters, it is encouraged that students remain a part of the group throughout the school year.

Lessons

8th graders will have a group of quarterly playing assessments. Students can perform those using SmartMusic, record themselves using Canvas Studio, or can sign up for a lesson and play for Mrs. Andersen live during the school day.

- All students have a paid subscription to Smart Music through KHMS. If students had an account last year, they do not need to sign up again. All returning band students have been uploaded into Smart Music for this year.
- Assignments will be listed in Canvas as well as in Smart Music.
- Upon completion of their playing assessment, students will need to include a self-assessment of their performance detailing how they were successful in that performance and what they need to work on for future assessments.

Grading

- Grades are based on our performance standards.
- Concerts and performances are a required part of our curriculum.
- Lessons are also a part of our performance standards.

Instruments and Equipment

- All students should come to rehearsal with their instrument, music and a pencil.
- Instrument cases should be labeled clearly on the outside with the students' names. I recommend a more detailed labeling on the inside of the case for safekeeping. All students will be given a cubicle to store their instruments in during the school day.
- Each student is personally responsible for his/her own instrument. DO NOT ALLOW ANYONE ELSE TO PLAY YOUR INSTRUMENT. Other people will play it incorrectly and could damage it for you.
- School-owned instruments (percussion equipment, french horns, tubas, bassoon, tenor saxes, bari saxes, bass clarinets) will be loaned to students as needed. These instruments will be loaned in good condition and it is the student's responsibility to maintain these instruments. Please let your director know immediately if you notice a problem with the instrument you are assigned to. Students and parents must sign and return a contract to borrow school-owned instruments. These instruments will NOT be shared among students.
- Students are also expected to have the equipment necessary to keep their instruments in good working order. This includes cleaning kits, valve oil, slide grease, cork grease, reeds. Percussionists need to have their own sticks and they should be labeled. Harter Middle School will not supply these items. However, they can be ordered and delivered to school through PM Music or Quinlan & Fabish. Quinlan & Fabish also has a full-service store located in Montgomery. PM Music has a full-service store in Aurora. Most music stores should have these supplies as well.
- Because we will be marching this year, students will also need to have a marching lyre and a flip folder.

Smart Music®

We will be using Smart Music for lessons. We have implemented a system of using Smart Music and every student will receive a free subscription to the program. All performance lessons will be assigned through Smart Music and can be completed on the online program. These grades will be based on standards which need to be met before moving on to the next assignments.

Private Lessons

I encourage and recommend that all students take private lessons. I realize financial situations may not allow that, but the extra attention will really help at this age. There are many professionals in the area offering private lessons.

Uniforms

- The 8th grade band members will be required to have two uniforms for the school year.
- For marching, we will be wearing the KMS Band black long-sleeve T-shirts. You may not need to purchase a new shirt if you have one from a sibling as the shirt is the same as in the past. The shirts are \$12.50. This T-shirt will be worn at our marching performances and our pep band performance. In addition to the band t-shirt, students will need to wear blue jeans and tennis shoes. Shoes must

have laces and backs. No sandals/Crocs. Since our marching performances are in the fall, you will want to have a turtleneck or sweatshirt to wear under your band t-shirt and purchase a band t-shirt large enough to accommodate the extra clothing. We will not wear jackets over our t-shirts.

- For concerts, students are required to wear black pants/skirts and white shirts/blouses. Skirts should be knee-length or longer, no mini-skirts please. Shirts should have collars and should be short-sleeve length or longer, no tank tops please. This concert dress is consistent with the chorus at the Middle School.

Jazz Band

- There will be auditions for placement in Jazz Band. Because of the limited instrumentation in a jazz band, there may be students who are not placed in the Jazz Band.
- **This is a VERY special year as the Jazz Band was selected to perform at the ILMEA All-State Festival.**
- Full Jazz Band will most rehearse on Thursdays. Additionally, there will be one additional sectional rehearsal each week that students will be required to attend. All of the information on jazz band and auditions will be sent home shortly.
- Because of the goals of the groups, participation in the Jazz Band is for students who are going to participate in one or less extra-curricular sports activities that conflict with our rehearsals – especially in the 1st semester.

Band Awards

- Awards will be given out at the end of the school year. At the end of the year, students will vote for the Director's Award for Band, a nationally-recognized band award for high achievement in band. There will also be a Jazz award given to an outstanding member of the Jazz Band.
- All students in band will receive a gold service bar that can be worn on their high school lettermen jackets. Silver star pins will be awarded to students who participate in extra-curricular activities related to band (IMEA District Festival or any Music Department sanctioned events). Gold star pins will be awarded to students who had leadership roles in the band throughout the year (drum majors/section leaders). Members of the Jazz Band will be awarded a Jazz pin.

Performing Arts Boosters

The Kaneland Performing Arts Boosters is a revamped Music Boosters. This new group will provide advocacy and support for Kaneland music and theater programs for middle and high school. Please consider becoming a member of this important group. It takes a great deal of "parent power" to provide quality music opportunities for our students. YOU ARE NEEDED! Please visit the Boosters website at <https://www.kpaboosters.org/> for more information.