

Kimpton Middle School Band

Handbook

2025-2026 School Year

Sandra Sandman, Band Director

Introduction

This handbook will serve for the 2025-2026 school year for members of the Kimpton Middle School Bands. This handbook has dates, rules and regulations, grading policies, required performances, concert dress and etiquette requirements, instrument checkout procedures, goals for the band, and other information related to band membership. It is designed to be a reference for any band event or policy that may come up during the year. IT IS STRONGLY ADVISED THAT EACH STUDENT AND PARENT FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF OR HERSELF WITH THIS HANDBOOK. Please keep a copy of the handbook to refer to during the year.

Our Band Web Site <http://smfband.org/>

The Kimpton Middle School Band maintains a web site that has all the information needed for participation in the band. This is a very convenient resource if you have misplaced this handbook, looking for instrument or equipment upgrades, or viewing other letters that have been passed out in band during the year. A copy of this handbook is available on this site. Please visit regularly to get information on the band and events.

Goals and General Information

The Kimpton Middle School Band program has a long history of excellence. By joining the band, you have committed yourself to continuing that pursuit of excellence in musical performance. Congratulations! The goals of the band each year are to attain a high level of musical performance and understanding by its members, to have its members acquire the skills needed to perform in the Stow-Munroe Falls High School Band, and to perform high quality musical selections at a level that is appropriate for the OMEA District Band Contest. To achieve these goals, band members must be committed to working for excellence. The band program demands high expectations from its members and offers much in return. To this end, certain basic requirements are expected of the band members. This handbook will explain in detail these requirements.

You will be notified well in advance of all performances of the band and your attendance is required. You are expected to be on time for all performances and rehearsals. Anyone not prepared to play at this time will be marked as late and dealt with according to the regulations found in this handbook. Anyone missing a rehearsal or performance without a legitimate excuse will have consequences that will negatively impact their quarterly grade. This will be covered in detail later in this handbook. **Please check the dates in this handbook and make sure you do not have conflicts with any required performances.**

Students also in Choir and /or Orchestra

If you are enrolled in both band AND another performing group (orchestra or choir), you will be attending both classes every day for half of the period. You will be receiving a grade for both classes, and therefore expected to get the missed work, and practice the missed material from the time you are not in class. We do our best to balance between “warm up / book material” and “concert music rehearsal”, but ultimately, it is your responsibility to practice the missed material outside of class on a daily basis. Again, you are receiving credit for two classes in the meeting time of one class. Extra practice and being responsible is a must!

Jazz Band

Jazz band consists of select 7th and 8th grade students. Selection is based from the director, chair placement and or audition. We will begin rehearsing one day a week beginning in mid-late October on **Wednesdays from 2:50 -4:10**. Auditions will be held in early October. If chosen for this group, attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

Band Parents Organization/Tag Day

The Band Parents Organization contributes to the band financially. The organization holds one mandatory fundraiser per year called Tag Day. The proceeds from this fundraiser purchase music, instruments and uniforms for the program. Attendance for this major event is mandatory for all students. Tag Day is Saturday, May 2nd from 9:30 to 12:30.

Classroom grading system and rules

KIMPTON BAND GRADING POLICY:

There are three basic components to the grading system in both the seventh and eighth grade bands:

PLAYING GRADE

CLASS PARTICIPATION

PERFORMANCE PARTICIPATION

PLAYING GRADE - 33% of total grade

Students will be evaluated quarterly, either individually or in the class setting. Students need to take instruments and music home Monday, Wednesday and Friday and practice to be prepared for class. The quarterly playing grade will show evidence of individual musical progress in concert music, book exercises, or theory work. This playing grade will be determined by one or more of the following: Auditions, Challenges, Practice Recording submissions, Section/ Small group assessment

CLASS PARTICIPATION - 33% of total grade

All students start out each week with 100 points.

Appropriate participation is defined as follows:

1. **Be on time** - The student has his/her instrument and is in their correct chair within 2 minutes of the bell ending the previous class.
2. **Have Supplies**- The student has all their required music, reeds and other items needed for that class. Woodwind players must have at least two extra reeds in their case at all times. One extra reed for oboes and bassoons is expected.
3. **Make an effort**- The student is making a reasonable effort to perform the music that has been assigned in class and to do what the teacher asks of them.
4. **Class Behavior**- The student is listening to instructions, and not preventing other students from learning. When the teacher is in front of the class, proper participation includes not talking or disturbing the class in any way, as it is impossible to perform music properly if the student is doing these things.

In the case of a student not participating properly, a warning will be given by the teacher explaining what the student needs to do to correct the problem or behavior. If after the warning the problem persists, the student will be marked as non-participating for that class period. Any student disturbing the class after being marked as non-participating will lose 20 participation points. Progress Book will be updated weekly and the students' grade will reflect changes to the participation and therefore overall grade. If a student's non-participation is the result of not having an instrument or needed materials for class, no warning is given and 20 points will be taken from their participation grade.

Students are expected to attend class every day. This includes attending a team day/ALA vs. attending class, unless specific arrangements have been made between the student, teacher and Mrs. Sandman.

Students will lose points for the following:

Class tardy – 10 points

Not prepared for class (no reed, music, mouthpiece, instrument, etc) -20 points per day

Failure to bring instrument and music home to practice (MWF) - 10 points per day

Unexcused daily absence (cutting class) - 20 points per day

Disruptive Class Behavior- up to 20 points per day

PERFORMANCE PARTICIPATION - 33% of total grade

****ALL PERFORMANCES AT KIMPTON ARE MANDATORY.**

****THIS IS DIFFERENT THAN LAKEVIEW*****

Performances are worth 100 “weighted” points to equal 1/3 of their quarterly grade

Students will lose points for the following and it WILL REFLECT IN THEIR GRADE:

Unexcused absence from a performance – 100 points (1/3 of quarterly grade)

Inappropriate behavior during performance – up to 100 points

For an absence from a performance to be excused, a note from the parent/guardian of the student stating reason for absence must be given to the director a minimum of three weeks in advance of the performance. **This procedure does not guarantee an absence will be excused, but it will be considered. The final decision will be made by the director.**

The following scale determines the letter grade given for Band on the report card:

100 - 90 = A

89 - 80 = B

79 - 70 = C

69 - 60 = D

59 - 0 = F

Uniform Requirements

Each student is required to purchase a Stow Band T-shirt in order to participate in Kimpton night performance. This shirt will also be worn under the uniform when the student is a member of the high school band. These shirts will be available for purchase at the evening rehearsals for the Kimpton Night performance. The cost of the T-shirts is \$10.

Concert Dress

Seventh grade and **Eighth grade** students will wear **black bottoms and black tops**. Boys must wear ties. **Jazz Band** students will wear the same. More detailed concert dress guidelines will come out as we get closer to performances.

Instrument Checkout

Those students who will be using a school owned instrument will be required to maintain the instrument properly and will be responsible for damage that is caused by them. Normal maintenance will be taken care of by the band. The band director will assign a specific instrument to each student as needed. **The instrument will be given to the student in working/cosmetic order and therefore will be returned in the same condition.** If you are using a school owned instrument it is strongly recommended that you purchase your own personal mouthpiece. Also, each student should have the supplies needed to take care of that instrument, such as valve oil, reeds, mouthpiece pouch or cap, or other items appropriate to the specific instrument. **No one is to play on or touch instruments that are not checked out to you or do not belong to you.** In some cases, students may have more than one instrument checked out. Instruments must be stored on the designated shelves when they are left in the band room. Students whose instruments are found not stored properly may be docked 10 participation points for that class day. If an instrument is continually abused, the instrument will be taken away permanently.

Student Owned Instruments

Clearly, the band will not be able to reach its goals if the instruments that the students perform on are not working properly or are of poor quality. Students are responsible for making sure that their instruments are cared for and in proper working order at all times. Make sure that there is always a tag or some way on the outside of the case to identify the instrument as belonging to you. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE STUDENTS TO PLAY INSTRUMENTS THAT DO NOT BELONG TO THEM OR ARE NOT CHECKED OUT TO THEM.** Violations of this will be dealt with severely. I strongly recommend that parents keep a record somewhere of the serial number of your instrument. It is also a good idea to check your homeowner's insurance to make sure you are covered if the instrument is stolen. The school board does not have insurance to cover loss of band instruments. I will do the best I can to make sure the band room is as secure as possible. Please make sure that you have a high-quality mouthpiece that is in good condition. This is the best and most cost-effective investment you can make to be a good player.

All Clarinet and Saxophone players should be playing on a hard rubber mouthpiece. I suggest shopping online @ wwbw.com or amazon.com and compare with local stores. Recommended models are listed below:

Clarinet – Portnoy mouthpiece w/ Rovner ligature (dark) or Vandoren B45

Saxophone – Selmer C* or S80 or Vandoren V5

Trumpet – Bach/Benge 5c,

Trombone – Bach/Benge 6 ½ AL

If possible, it is recommended that you upgrade to an intermediate or professional line instrument. Your beginning instrument can be used for marching band. Please see me for a recommendation or check the band web page.

Band Dates for 2025-2026 School Year

The following are the performance dates for the year. In this list, the performance time is the actual time of performance. Students will usually be expected to arrive 30 minutes before the performance to prepare. This will be announced during the week of the performance. **Please take this page out and put it on your fridge and/or place dates in family calendar.**

- Thursday, September 11 Evening Rehearsal 6:00-7:00 PM @ HS (Percussion 5-7)
- Wednesday, September 17 Evening Rehearsal 6:00-7:00 PM @ HS (Percussion 5-7)
- Friday, September 19 ***Kimpton Night PERFORMANCE 4:30-8:30 PM @ HS**
- Tuesday, December 9 ***Kimpton Band CONCERT 7:30 @ KP Gym**
- Thursday, January 15 Jazz'n January (Jazz Band Members only) 7:00 PM @ HS
- Wednesday, February 25 ***Kimpton Band CONCERT 7:30 @ KP Gym**
- Thursday, March 12 Spring Jazz Concert (Jazz Band Members only) @HS
- Monday, April 13 Freshman Orientation @ HS 7:00 (Mandatory for 8th grade)
- Saturday, April 18 Solo and Ensemble Contest LOCATION TBA
- Saturday, May 2 Tag Day 9:30AM-12:30 PM @ HS
- Wednesday, May 6 ***Kimpton Band CONCERT 7:30 @ KP Gym**
- Friday or Saturday May 15 or 16 Middle School
***LARGE GROUP BAND CONTEST @ TBA**
- Thursday, May 28 Marching Band Reading Session @ 3:00 (8th grade only @ HS)

***Attendance at CONCERTS (underlined above) is mandatory and makes up 33% of the nine weeks' grade. Please have these in your calendar for planning purposes!**

Any alterations to these dates will be posted on the band web site, and an email will be sent out at least a month in advance. You are responsible for being at all required performances.

Students are only permitted to discontinue band at the end of each Semester.

I am very excited to share many musical experiences with your child this year! Please take time to review this handbook, and then detach, sign and return this paper by Tuesday August 26!

*****Ten extra credit points** will be awarded to the student's classroom participation grade if returned by Friday, August 22nd. If returned after Tuesday, August 26th, ten points will be deducted from the student's classroom participation grade. Points will continue to be subtracted daily until returned to Mrs. Sandman. Please do not procrastinate! Take advantage of the extra credit!

Student name _____

I have received the band handbook and I fully understand the content within. By signing this form, I agree to follow the rules stated and fulfill the duties required of me. I also understand that **Concert Attendance is required** and makes up 33% of my nine week's grade.

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____