
Krimmel Intermediate

Knight Band



2018-2019 Handbook

Stetson Begin, Director of Bands
Cody Brooks, Assistant Director

Band Philosophy

Welcome to the Krimmel Intermediate School Band Program! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we introduce our band program to you in a more detailed manner. Students at Krimmel Intermediate are at the beginning of a seven-year program of instruction. It is our hope that participation in the band program will foster better understanding and appreciation of music and help students carry with them the knowledge, skills, and attitude that will assist them throughout their academic career.

While it is the individual student's achievement in music that is our primary goal, it is the commitment of all band members to each other that has allowed our program to achieve its unique position. By signing the forms at the end of this handbook, you will be making a commitment that includes the following:

1. Membership in the Krimmel Band program for the entire school year including attendance at all rehearsals, sectionals, concerts, and contests.
2. Your best effort to improve as a musician through daily practice and preparation.
3. Maintaining a positive attitude towards band as well as appropriate behavior at all times.

Contact Information

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents/guardians.

Stetson Begin, Director of Bands
sbegin1@kleinisd.net
832-375-7146

Cody Brooks, Assistant Director
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832-375-7147

CONFERENCE PERIODS

Director's main conference period is from 9:40 to 10:25 AM daily. **Please schedule an appointment with a respective director if you would like to meet.**

Please understand that our communication to you - the parents - is a very high priority for us. We want to take care of concerns and make every situation the best for each student. Please contact us for clarification on any concerns before they become major issues.

Due to sectionals and student help sessions, it is difficult to reach us before or after school. If we are working with students, please understand that they are our highest priority and deserve our complete attention.

EMAIL POLICY

We will be sending home many updates and communication via e-mail throughout the year. Due to the nature of e-mail, all major concerns will need to be addressed through conferences or home

communication. This is to avoid any misunderstandings or unclear intentions through e-mail communication. Parents are encouraged to use e-mail to get more information or clarification regarding events, or to schedule a parent conference.

STUDENT COMMUNICATION

Students are also encouraged to communicate with the directors before concerns become issues. They should do this in person at an appropriate time, one on one. Again, clarification and solid communication will keep everything running smoothly throughout the entire year.

Throughout the year, we will be sending quite a bit of information home in the form of letters. Please make every effort to read this information carefully, check calendars often and keep us informed of any conflicts. The sooner we know of a situation, the more options we have in solving problems.

The Krimmel Bands

The **Symphonic Band** is the top-performing ensemble by audition in the Krimmel Band program. Due to the advanced nature of the course, it is highly recommended that students participate in private lessons. Band members are required to attend a weekly sectional rehearsal held outside of school hours. The Symphonic band will take part in all concerts, school pep rallies, All-Region Band auditions, KISD Solo and Ensemble contest, UIL Concert and Sightreading contest, and at least one festival.

The **Concert Band** is comprised of 7th and 8th grade members and is considered the Non-Varsity performing band. Private lesson participation is encouraged and weekly sectional rehearsals are required of all members of this ensemble. The Concert Band will participate in all concerts, KISD Solo and Ensemble contest, UIL contest, and at least one other concert or festival.

The **Cadet Band** is designed for those experienced players who require an extension of the beginner year. Emphasis is based on the development of playing fundamentals. Students will participate in all concerts, pep rallies, football games, as well as the KISD Solo and Ensemble contest.

The **Beginning Band** is comprised of students who have never played a band instrument before. These students will perform a Spring Concert in March and a Final Concert in May.

Standards of Behavior

These behavior standards help ensure that Krimmel Band members will maintain our tradition of excellence and respect while also protecting students and equipment.

- No gum, candy, food, or drinks in the band hall, unless provided and supervised by the directors or parent chaperones.
- Do not interfere with the directors' ability to teach or with the ability of other students to learn.
- Students are not to touch or handle instruments or equipment that does not belong to them or has not been assigned to them by the directors.
- All required equipment and materials should be brought to class every day.
- Any behavior which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program.

Procedures

- Students should refrain from playing their instruments until instructed to do so.
- Band members should be in their chairs or moving to their chairs with instruments assembled at the start of class.
- Do not leave your instrument unattended, unless it is in its proper storage location.
- When an adult is speaking to the group, your eyes should be on him or her.
- Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that time will be utilized as wisely and efficiently as possible.
- Instruments should be stored in assigned instrument storage slots during the school day. Instrument cases should be clearly labeled with the student name. No extra materials are to be stored in instrument slots other than instruments and music (organized in the band binder). Do not store extra materials in your instrument slot.
- Percussion instruments are only to be played or handled by percussionists.
- Only band students are allowed in the band hall. This is to protect your equipment.
- You will be expected to take your instrument home each day and instruments should be picked up immediately after school is dismissed. If you leave school early, be sure to pick up your instrument when leaving.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
- Students will not write on the dry-erase boards without permission from a director.

Disciplinary Consequences

Violations of standards or procedures as outlined in this handbook or failure to meet expectation as covered in rehearsal may result in one or more of the following actions:

- Verbal warning
- Time out (and a possible written assignment) with reduction in student's participation grade
- Parent contact
- Disciplinary referral to the assistant principal's office
- Parent conference
- Removal from band activities or, in extreme cases, removal from band

Grading Guidelines

60% Major Grades—These include sectional playing assessments, recorded assignments in Schoology, and written exams. Playing tests will be given during sectionals and class time. Concert performances are considered major test grades and are required.

40% Minor Grades—These include recording pass-offs, participation and attitude in daily rehearsals, sectionals attendance, extra rehearsals, and locker checks. A student's daily grade will be based on the following: all music neatly in band binder every day, pencil on music stand, all necessary supplies are available, good posture, active participation, and day-to-day improvement.

The following list is provided to give students and parents examples of items that may be subject to grading. Additional assignments may be given at the discretion of the director.

- The student will receive a grade for each before or after school section or full rehearsal during a grading period
- The student will be on task and focused during rehearsal.
- The student will have instrument, music, pencil, and supplies in rehearsals.
- The students will be prepared to play his/her part successfully.
- The student will mark music and take notes as needed.
- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
- The student's individual skill development will be evaluated through recorded music tests, individual playing tests, scale tests, and/or written test.
- the student will be evaluated on improvement of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to improve his/her performance fundamentals.
- The student will be evaluated for improvement of his/her music fundamentals through daily observation during the "basics" part of rehearsal and during sectional.
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation as monitored during rehearsals.
- The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period.

Academic Eligibility

A student receiving a grade below 70 on a report card in ANY class will be ineligible for extracurricular activities that the band takes part in until the student regains eligibility by passing ALL classes on the next progress report or report card. However, if the student fails a GT or Pre-AP course they do not lose their eligibility.

Football game performances, individual contests such as All-Region Band auditions, solo and ensemble competition, band contests and festivals (UIL contest, Festival at the Falls, etc.) are considered **EXTRACURRICULAR** and are subject to the rules concerning eligibility.

Non-competitive concerts, band rehearsals, and sectional rehearsals are considered **CURRICULAR** and are not governed by eligibility rules. A student must participate in these activities regardless of academic standing.

Prior to an event where academic eligibility is a factor, directors inform ineligible students that they cannot participate in as timely a manner as possible. Because we are at the mercy of the academic calendar, this notice may take place within a day or two of the event in question or, in other cases, up to a month in advance.

If you have any questions regarding academic eligibility, please contact a band director. Missing a required event because you assumed that you were not eligible is not considered an excused absence. Again, we will inform you of your standing if you are ineligible for a given band event.

Attendance Policies

When a student accepts membership in the Krimmel Intermediate Band, he or she is making a commitment to participate in all band functions. Any activity that is included in the course is considered curricular. Sectional rehearsals, clinics, concerts, and contests are part of the course requirements and are graded activities.

Excused Absence

Absences during the school day will be excused according to district guidelines. **Absences from activities held outside the school day will be excused at the discretion of the directors.**

Appointments, tutorials, etc. are **not excuses for absence.** Absences due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by director) may be considered for excused status. Students who are continually ill may be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation. Absences should be discussed with a director to determine whether or not they will be excused. **Some excused absences may still result in removal from a concert performance, contest or trip. An excused absence from a sectional may still require a make-up sectional at the discretion of the director.**

Unexcused Absence

Students with an unexcused absence from any required band activity will receive a zero in the gradebook. In some cases, students may be required to attend a like-instrument sectional before their next scheduled sectional, or the zero stays. Rehearsals, concerts, contests, and competitions cannot be made up.

We cannot teach a student if they are not present, and cannot substitute players like sports teams do. Please make every effort to schedule your medical, dental, orthodontic, and other appointments around band activities and class times. Every band member is important and essential.

Unlike assignments core classes such as English, Math, Science, and Social Studies, it is not possible to make up a special rehearsal or performance. The band director must approve all absences in advance. **In order for an absence to be considered excused, notice must be given at least three school days in advance of a sectional rehearsal or clinic, two weeks in advance of a concert, and one month in**

advance of a contest or festival. Only conflicts of a serious nature will be considered and it is the director's discretions as to whether or not an excused absence will be allowed.

We do understand that very occasional instances can come up that could prevent your attendance at a band event (personal illness, unforeseen family emergency, etc.) In such a case, be sure to communicate with the band directors in as timely a manner as you can, and when possible, we will always work with you.

Attendance policies are put in place because the absence of even one band member from a section can have a negative impact on that section of the band or even the band as a whole. A list of band events if available on the calendar section of Charms, and we encourage you to make note of these events on your family calendar.

Unintentionally scheduling a family event because you failed to check the band calendar will not be considered an excused absence in any circumstance.

Sectional Rehearsals

All Symphonic and Concert Band members are **required** to attend a weekly practice for one hour either before school (7:15 — 8:30 AM) or after school (4:15 — 5:30 PM). Students are expected to be punctual and prepared. Absence from sectional rehearsals must be in accordance with the attendance policy. Students must make every effort to attend. Section rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly.

It is imperative that each sectional begin on time with everyone in attendance. Students who miss a sectional will not receive credit for attendance. Please be aware of your child's sectional day/time and make every effort to assure that he/she is on time and ready to learn! Please do not schedule dentist, doctor, or any other appointment during your child's sectional. It will cause him/her to fall behind the rest of the group.

Students who miss a sectional (excused or unexcused) have one week to make up the missed sectional. After a week, the absence will be considered unexcused and a grade of zero will be recorded.

Students will be on task and focused during section rehearsals. Students are expected to come prepared. Coming unprepared to sectionals could result in removal from the sectional and a zero.

At-Home Practice

Following a consistent daily practice schedule is essential for a student to progress at an acceptable rate. Students are encouraged to follow an established home practice schedule and routine. Past experience shows that students who are practicing their instruments and experiencing improvement tend to enjoy band and playing music more than those who are not. Invariably, there will be times where practicing feels more like work than fun, but students are encouraged to push these times and keep their eyes on short and long-term goals.

A great thing about band is the more you put into it, the more you will get out of it. Although there are very few “quick fixes,” the personal satisfaction derived from meeting goals and improving is more than worth the effort it takes to get there.

A student’s practice routine will change and evolve as he or she moves through the year and gains experience. A good “baseline” routine should consist of the following elements:

1. Warm-up and fundament exercises similar to those played in class, sectionals, and/or private lessons.
2. Scales and technique (major scales, chromatic scales, and/or other technical exercises)
3. Review of material covered in rehearsal and/or private lessons.
4. Assigned material from your band music, region music, solo, book, etc.
5. Work ahead on material not yet covered in class.
6. Play something for fun and/or work on sight-reading.

When following your practice routine, keep the following in mind:

1. Minimize all distractions (no TV, stereo, iPod).
2. Know the difference between practicing for results and just putting in time. If you find yourself doing the latter, take a break, refresh, and pick up where you left off later. You do not always have to do all of your practice time for a day in one sitting.
3. Always use a music stand. This is the number one culprit for bad playing habits among our students.
4. Use a metronome and keep track of short and long-term goals.
5. Fill out your practice record at the end of each practice session.

Instrument Storage and Identification

Instrument cubbies are to be used for instrumental storage ONLY!! Each student is assigned a specific locker, which is to be kept clean. Instruments are to be put in their cases, and the cases kept closed and latched while in the storage area. NO INSTRUMENTS ARE TO BE KEPT IN LOCKERS OR OVER THE WEEKENDS (except for school owned instruments). Beginning band students will begin to consistently bring their instruments home as soon as their band director instructs them.

It is suggested that all personal instruments have the proper insurance coverage. Instruments ARE NOT insured by Krimmel Intermediate or Klein Independent School District.

Band students will take home their instruments and band binders **every evening**. Students are expected to practice regularly outside of band class and private lessons.

Students are **not** allowed to leave their instrument unattended at a ny time. **There will be consequences for any student whose instrument is brought to us by another student, teacher, etc.**

Braces and Dental Work

Due to the nature of performance, your child’s participation (or lack thereof) can have a significant impact on the overall success of the other students in their band or ensemble. When it comes to braces and dental work, we ask that you please contact a director in advance and take into account the band

calendar and performance obligations, especially those in the spring (UIL contest, Solo and Ensemble Contest, and festival performances). The band calendar can be found on the band website. **Optimal times for braces and dental work would be the beginning of the summer.**

Band Uniform Requirements and Guidelines

Uniformity of appearance is an important element of formal and informal performance. The directors take these guidelines very seriously, as should student band members. Failure to comply can result in a reduction to the student's performance grade and even removal from a performance or contest.

Formal Uniform for Symphonic, Concert, and Cadet Bands

The formal uniform is used at concerts, contests, and other major events.

- White formal tuxedo shirt (available for purchase through the band)
- Black dress pants (should be slacks, not black jeans or leggings)
- Black socks
- Black vest (issued to students by the band)
- Black shoes (dress shoes only—no tennis shoes—ladies must be closed toe with a low to medium heel, flats are okay).

Symphonic, Concert and Cadet Band members will receive a black vest from the school. Students are to maintain them and they must be either: 1) dry cleaned before the last day of school and returned, or 2) returned to the directors with a \$1.50 cleaning fee before the last day of school.

Informal Uniform for All Band Students

The informal uniform, used by all beginning band students and by performing band students at football games and other performances consists of:

- The current year's Krimmel Intermediate Band shirt
- Jeans

Concert Etiquette

Audience manners are based on respect for those performing, as well as fellow audience members. In this day and age, we are rarely exposed to formal concert situations. Please keep the following guidelines in mind when attending a formal concert as an audience member.

- Avoid entering or leaving the venue while a group is performing. If you must leave or move during the performance, only do so between selections. (The exception to this is if you have a crying child. We welcome all family members at our events, but parents with very small children are encouraged to sit on an aisle near an exit if possible).
- Direct your attention to the group on stage at all times.
- Applause is always welcome, but whistling and cheering are very inappropriate for a formal concert.
- Talking during a performance is inappropriate. Children who are talking or crying should be escorted out of the performance setting.

- Cell phone should be on SILENT. Not only is texting, surfing the Internet, playing games, reading, etc., very inconsiderate of performers and audience members, it can also interfere with the recording equipment.

Image and Traveling with the Band

It is the expectation of the directors and administration that band members will maintain a positive image at all times. The Krimmel Intermediate Band represents our school, our district, and our community. Band members should always make every effort to be courteous and respectful, not only to directors and other adults (guest clinicians, chaperones, bus drivers, etc.), but also to each other.

Band members will always remain entirely in uniform when in public, as the situation allows. When in situation where we come into contact with other performing organizations, it is imperative that we treat these ensembles with respect and dignity. We expect our students to refrain from negativity and derogatory statements of any kind.

When traveling with the band, students are expected to follow all instructions given by band directors, chaperones, and bus drivers. All adults are to be treated with utmost respect, and proper bus behavior is required of all students. Directors and chaperones are not responsible for student belongings. **Students who are not in good-standing with the band (unpaid fees or fundraising balances, poor standing in terms of discipline, academic eligibility, failure to attend required band events, etc.) will not be allowed to travel with the band to non-performance events.**

School-Owned Instruments

Instruments such as piccolo, oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor and baritone saxophone, horn, euphonium, and tuba are provided to students by our school district because they are highly specialized and very expensive. Klein ISD requires that all students who use a school-owned instrument pay a yearly \$52.00 maintenance fee. The fee is used to offset the **normal maintenance and upkeep** of these instruments.

Any damage to the instrument beyond the normal “wear and tear” (as determined by the director) is the financial responsibility of the student. Students are expected to maintain the instrument as if is their own (and as taught in class).

Private Lessons

A key to the success of our band program over the years has been a very high rate of participation in private lessons. This is a district wide program that provides a high quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Most of our teachers are professional musicians in the Houston area and have advanced degrees in the performance of their instruments. Lessons are extremely valuable to the individual student. Students are taught at a pace that suits them. Students who are excelling in class may be given extra material or be taught how to get to that “next level,” while students who need extra help can receive this help in their lesson (which does NOT replace the availability of the band directors to help students during class and before or after school).

- *ALL* students are *highly encouraged* to take individualized private lessons.

- Teachers are screened and interviewed by Klein ISD.
- Lessons will be given weekly before or after school.
- Detailed information on the private lesson program will be distributed to the band students.
- If you have any questions about the private lesson program, please contact a director.

Financial Obligations

It is the philosophy of the Krimmel Intermediate School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the director.

Fundraisers

We have two fundraisers planned for the school year. Participation in fundraisers is encouraged, but not required. Fundraisers will be used to defray the groups' spring trip expenses. Any other money raised will be used to purchase additional materials and equipment for the Krimmel Band Program. Parents are welcome, of course, to make donations in lieu of fundraising.

Money raised is used toward travel expenses, the purchase of music and equipment beyond what we are budgeted for, hiring clinicians and guest teachers to supplement class instruction, social activities, entry fees, and more.

More information will be provided when a fundraiser is approaching.

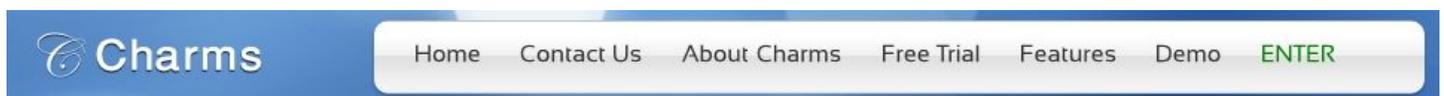
CHARMS

CHARMS is a secure web-based program used by the directors in tracking inventory, disseminating handouts and information, and most importantly, communicating with parents and students. Please try to keep student and parent/guardian information up to date so that you will not miss important e-mails and announcements.

Go to www.charmsoffice.com, and locate the link for the Parent/Student section. Your login name is "krimmelband," and your password will be your student's six-digit ID number as issued by Klein ISD. Once logged on, you can update contact information, change your password, download handouts, and more.

UPDATING CHARMS! **EVERYONE MUST DO THIS! **

1. On any computer, go to <http://www.charmsoffice.com>



2. Find **Parent/Student Login** and enter **krimmelband** and press **Enter Charms**.



- Put your student's 6 digit ID number (no 's') in the **Enter Student ID/Password** field.

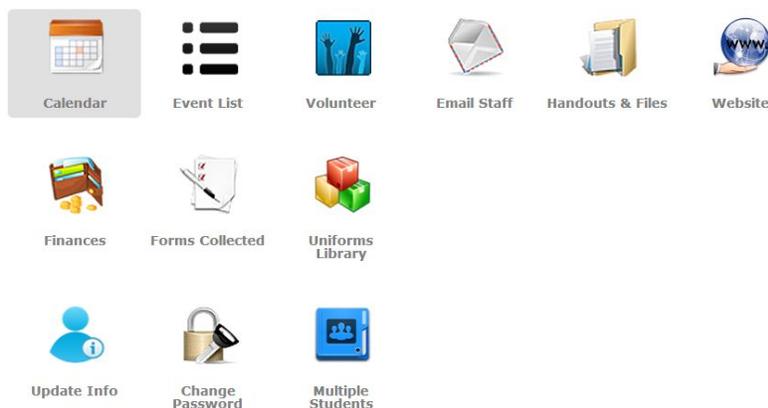
- Click on the icon for **Update Info**



- Complete as many fields as possible (we really only need address, email, and phone numbers) and then click **update** in the top right-hand corner.



- You may access the Charms website at any time and use the resources available to you. Another option is to change your password. The default password is your child's ID number; however, you may change it to something easier to remember for you if you wish.





7. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.