



KESWICK BAND HANDBOOK 2011-2012

Mr. David Holtzhouse, Superintendent
Mr. Nick Stratis, Upper School Principal
Mrs. Chanda Mangiaracina, Fine Arts Director, Vocal Director
Mrs. Maribeth Trill, Instrumental Director

*Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary: praise Him in the firmament of His power.
Praise Him for His mighty acts: praise Him according to His excellent greatness.
Praise Him with the sound of trumpet: praise Him with the psaltery and harp.
Praise Him with the timbrel and dance: praise Him with the stringed instruments and organs.
Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals.
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.*

Psalm 150

Philosophy

- Since music is a gift from God, we will make music with thankfulness, humility, and joy.
- We will engage in our music making with care and discipline, striving to reflect the incredible detail, beauty, and creativity of God's creation.
- The excellence of our music, although a worthy goal, must not be an idol but rather a witness for our Lord.
- In the Keswick band, we will to make Christ our model, demonstrating love for Him and one another.

KCS BANDS

All performing groups require a full school year commitment of participation.

Co-Curricular Groups

These groups meet daily during the school day, although they all also involve commitments outside of the school day. All attendance and grading policies are in place at extracurricular events, just as they are during the school day. Those who are considering being a member of these groups should carefully consider the demands of the group before making the year long commitment (please see Fine Arts Calendar). At extracurricular events, parents are to pick up their student on time. Those who remain long after the event is over will jeopardize their participation in the future.

Intermediate Band is for students in grades 6, 7, and 8 with some band experience. This group participates in several concerts and band assessment performances a year, while building skill and musicality in performing music that will gradually get more challenging. The prerequisites for students wishing to join the percussion section are at least two years of piano lessons, a recommendation from the piano teacher, and good behavior in beginning band.

Wind Ensemble is for students in grades 9-12. They perform at concerts, community events, the KCS Annual Banquet, churches, and judged assessments. The Keswick Wind Ensemble has a tradition of performing challenging music literature with excellence. The members of the Wind Ensemble are selected on the basis of musical skill, behavior and maturity. In addition to class time, the Wind Ensemble may require some additional morning rehearsals from 7:15-7:50.

Extra-Curricular Groups

Crusader Varsity Band is comprised of band members in grades 7-12. The Varsity Band performs at pep rallies, home football games and other events. Criteria for membership include the ability to perform the music with confidence and commitment to the rehearsal and performance schedule.

Keswick Ringers is a handbell choir consisting of students in grades 7-12. This group meets before school twice a week and performs several times per year. The criteria for membership are passing a music theory test and commitment to the group's schedule.

ATTENDANCE AT EXTRACURRICULAR BAND EVENTS

Excused Absence Reasons:

- Sickness
- Death in the family
- EMERGENCY doctor appointment
- Other extenuating circumstances clearly outside the control of the student and parents
- Pre-arranged absences may be excused at the discretion of the director if they are for significant reason and if the director is approached at least a week in advance with a note of explanation. If the request is to miss a performance, the importance of the performance will also be weighed in whether or not the director excuses the student.

Examples of unexcused absence reasons, which result in the lowering of the student's grade based on the importance of the event missed and the reason why:

- Forgot
- No ride
- Homework, test, quiz, etc. due the following day
- Conflict with other event (non-prearranged)
- Doctor's appointment (non-emergency, could have been scheduled at another time)

If you question whether a reason for an absence is excused, ask the director as far in advance as possible. Attendance is an important part of Band. Absences affect the whole group in rehearsals and performances. Those who habitually miss performances may be excluded from membership in performing groups.

GRADING

- 65% of the student's grade is based on participation in rehearsals, both during the school day and extracurricular.
- 15% of the grade is based on mastery of musical assignments. Music mastery will be graded during class or before/after school. Smart Music computer program is optional, but may be used to send in graded assignments. It also can be very valuable to practice band selections with the accompanying parts. Smart Music can be ordered on line at www.smartmusic.com for \$36, or see Mrs. Trill for questions.
- 20% of the grade is based on participation in all performances and events.

BAND CLASS EXPECTATIONS

1. Be on time with your instrument, music folder, and a pencil.
2. Please only play instruments when asked to do so.
3. Please follow directions the first time given.
4. Please remain in your seat unless you have permission to get up.
5. Be self-controlled. No shouting or rough playing around.
6. Food, gum and drink are not permitted in the band room. Clear H₂O water is okay.
7. Always behave in such a way that glorifies God and demonstrates love for one another.

MUSIC

- Sheet music must be treated carefully and responsibly. Do not bend or fold.
- Always keep music in your music folder.
- Music folders must be stored in the student music cabinet or locker.
- Mark music with pencil only.
- See the band secretary if you need music. Other students may not take music out of the cabinet.
- If music is lost, you are responsible for the replacement.

INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

- * Students must never play on someone else's instrument.
- * Larger instruments may be rented from KCS for \$100 per school year (\$10 a month)
- * When on campus, instruments must be stored in your band room locker. Instruments may not be left in music building hallway, in front of music building, or on the floor of the instrument storage room.
- * Clarinet, saxophone, and double reed players need to have several good reeds at all times. Vandoren reeds are recommended. A small supply is kept on hand for purchase in emergencies.
- * Instruments and music must be put away after each use.
- * Mouthpieces must be cleaned at home, not during rehearsal. Brass players should oil their valves and grease their tuning slides at home, not during rehearsal.

FBA / ACSI ACTIVITIES

FBA stands for the Florida Bandmasters Association. To participate in FBA activities, a student must have a minimum 2.0 grade point average.

All-State Band auditions take place in September. Once selected, All-State students accompany their director to the Florida Music Educators Association Convention held in Tampa, usually during the first Thursday through Saturday in January. The All-State Band is comprised of some of the most outstanding school musicians and is under the leadership of a highly distinguished conductor. After several days of rehearsal, the All-State groups perform a concert on the concluding Saturday. It is a great musical experience worthy of the effort to audition!

In the **All-State Honor Band**, students are selected on the basis of a band director nomination, although he/she is still expected to be able to perform the All-State Band audition materials with excellence.

One of the most educational events sponsored by the FBA and ACSI is **Solo and Ensemble Assessment**. Students learn and improve a great deal as a result of preparing a solo or ensemble. At the assessment, students will perform for a certified judge who will rate the performance and provide comments. Wind Ensemble students participate in the FBA Solo and Ensemble Assessment in February, Intermediate Band members participate in the ACSI Solo and Ensemble Festival in April.

- For solos: KCS will attempt to assist in finding a piano accompanist for every student who needs one. Students are responsible for paying the piano accompanist (\$25 for Intermediate Band, \$50 for Wind Ensemble or **any student playing a piece Grade 5 or above.**)
- High school band students earning a “superior” rating on a grade 5 or more difficult solo may perform at the FBA State Solo and Ensemble later in the spring.

FBA / ACSI Concert Band Assessment is an event in which band performs three selections that will be evaluated by a panel of certified judges, who will make taped and written comments and assign a rating to the performance. The Wind Ensemble will also perform two selections they have never played before. This is called “sight reading”. A judge will rate how well the band reads this music. At the sight-reading phase, the band director may elect to have a student conductor direct the band for a rating as well.

- High school bands that earn a “superior” rating are eligible to perform at the State Assessment later in the spring.
- **Because of the importance of these events, extra rehearsals may be scheduled in the weeks prior to assessment. Attendance at these rehearsals will be mandatory.**

As we participate in FBA / ACSI assessments, let us be sure to honor our Lord with musical excellence and a fine display of God-honoring character.

AWARDS

Class Band Awards

Each school year, in grades 6 through 12, one student from each class is chosen to receive an award based on their grade point average, performance in class and character.

Varsity Band Spirit Award

This award is given to a member of the Crusader Varsity Band who demonstrates enthusiasm, commitment, and excellence in Varsity Band participation.

Most Improved Band Member Award

For Beginning Band and Intermediate Band members

Wind Ensemble Four-Year Senior Award

The Director's Award

This award is presented to the most outstanding Intermediate Band student. Criteria for this award will include involvement in various outside musical activities and/or honor groups, exemplary behavior, and technique. This award is not only based on the student's musical ability, but also on moral character and spiritual maturity.

Senior Band Award

This award is given to the senior who has taken at least two years of Band in high school. The recipient of this award is chosen by the teacher based on grade point average, performance in class, participation, and character.

Outstanding and Most Outstanding Band Members

The John Philip Sousa Band Award

This is the Wind Ensemble's most prestigious award. Criteria for this award will include a "superior" rating at FBA Solo and Ensemble Assessment, involvement in outside musical activities and honor groups, and performances at church. This student must have also demonstrated outstanding leadership, service to the band, exemplary behavior, and spiritual maturity. This award may not necessarily be awarded every year.

The Music Boosters Randall Kile Scholarship Award

This is a monetary award given to an outstanding senior band and/or choir student who will be pursuing music in college. This award will be presented at the High School Graduation Ceremony.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Using Christ as our example, leaders are servants. Each member must demonstrate a genuine concern for the musical, moral, and spiritual welfare of the group, demonstrated by a willingness to serve others, showing positive leadership, and encouraging others to do the same. Each member must attend all events, arriving early and leaving only after all of the work is finished. Each leadership team member must set a positive example in the way he/she conducts him/herself every day in rehearsal.

Band President

The President must put the needs of the band ahead of his/her own personal needs or desires. The President will be called upon to lead the band in the absence of the Director. He/she must be sensitive to the morale of the band and communicate student morale to the Director. The President will lead special student projects and will assist the Band Director in any way possible for the proper functioning of the band.

Band Secretary

The Band Vice-President is responsible for assisting the President in carrying out his/her duties and is responsible for taking accurate attendance at **all** band events.

Student Conductor

A student who is an exceptional musician may be appointed to be the student conductor. This student will conduct the band at rehearsals, performances, and at band assessment.

BAND UNIFORMS

Music students will wear the exact, prescribed uniform for all performances. Jewelry and other ornamentation must not be worn, with the exception of small earrings for girls. Uniforms must be clean and ironed. “Solid black” means that, from a few feet away, one can only see the color black, without any other distracting details (exterior pockets, brand badges, large stitching or embroidery, “swoosh stripes” etc.).

If a band member comes to a performance out of uniform, that student may not be allowed to perform and their grade will be lowered.

Please always cover and hang up your uniform when you are not wearing it. Keep it clean and wrinkle-free. Please show respect to our uniform!

Intermediate Band Uniform:

Boys

- Solid black dress pants with a plain belt.
- Solid black socks and shoes.
- Tux shirt, tie and cummerbund

Girls

- Black skirt of appropriate length (purchased through Music Boosters)
- Black dress shoes.
- Tux shirt, tie and cummerbund

Wind Ensemble Formal Uniform:

Gentlemen

- White tux shirt.
- Black tux pants and jacket.
- Cummerbund and matching bow tie (rental item).
- Black dress shoes (purchased through Music Boosters).

Pants are to be worn so that the hem is at the waistline, not around the hips. Only solid black socks are to be worn. Bow ties are to be worn around the neck properly. Tux shirt is to be buttoned down; including the cuffs at all times when on campus or at the performance sight. ***Let's always look classy when in uniform!***

Ladies

- Black dress (purchased through Music Boosters).
- Black hose.
- Black dress shoes (purchased through Music Boosters).
- Pearl necklace (purchased through Music Boosters).

The dress is to be worn with tied back for uniformity. Pearl necklace is to be worn throughout each event. Black is the only color allowed for hose. ***Let's always look classy when in uniform!***

AGAIN, UNIFORMS MUST ALWAYS BE COVERED AND HUNG UP WHEN NOT BEING WORN!

Students will be sized at the beginning of the school year for ordering of band uniforms. An itemized bill is provided through the Music Boosters for each member.

MUSIC BOOSTERS
(Excerpts from Music Booster By-Laws)

Mission

The Keswick Christian School Music Boosters Association will exist in order to:

1. Glorify God through the support of a God-honoring music education for KCS students in grades 5-12; and through obedience to Scripture and to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all decision-making, communication and activity.
2. Help in the fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission, witnessing as to the authenticity and power of Christ actively working in us in all we do and say, both individually and corporately, knowing that as "Christian" is a part of our name we are held under special scrutiny.
3. Model appropriate Christian service and obedience for our children.
4. Provide for the financial needs of the band and choir programs when needs go beyond what is provided by Keswick Christian School.
5. Support the music directors in the execution of their duties, providing help where needed, and showing respect for the authority of their position, in word and deed, to the band and choir students.
6. Encourage and hold accountable our individual children to invest their God-given talents wisely: Working hard in band or choir, engaging in music practice regularly at home, and being a responsible band/choir member.
7. Provide for the additional needs of the music program as determined by the music directors and school administration.

Membership

The membership is open to all parent(s) or guardian(s) of students participating in either vocal or instrumental music in grades 5 – 12.

Dues

There are no dues for membership in The Boosters.

Parents: Please attend Music Booster meetings and be active in Music Booster sponsored fundraisers and event for the benefit your child and the music programs.

Fundraisers

From time to time, it will be necessary to have fundraisers to supply the necessary money to run the music programs and purchase equipment.

The music directors ask that every student participate fully in every fundraiser. This is a part of working together as a member of our team and is a way to instill the Biblical habit of stewardship of time and treasure.

Thank you, in advance for helping to make our fundraisers a success this year

FOR PARENTS: HOW CAN I HELP WITH PRACTICE AT HOME?

It is important for parents to offer encouragement and support. Your child will catch on to some things very easily. There will be times, however, when a technique or concept will be difficult to learn. This is when your child will need you the most.

You can help your student to develop good practice habits. Here are some suggestions on how to help achieve good practice habits:

1. HAVE A SET TIME TO PRACTICE EACH DAY. Help your student make a wise choice about when this time will be.
2. PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE PLACE TO PRACTICE. Your student should have a straight chair to sit on, a music stand and ample lighting.
3. HELP MAKE PRACTICE TIME FREE OF INTERRUPTIONS.
4. ASK YOUR CHILD TO PLAY CLASS ASSIGNMENTS FOR YOU.
5. HAVE PATIENCE IN REMINDING YOUR STUDENT TO PRACTICE DAILY.
6. MAKE MUSIC A FAMILY ACTIVITY. Take your student to hear a concert. Purchase records or tapes of good musical performances. Have your child perform a family mini-concert.
7. ENCOURAGE AND PRAISE YOUR CHILD DAILY.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Studying with a highly qualified private instructor is one of the best ways to improve dramatically on your instrument. Mrs. Trill keeps a list of private teachers in our area. Many of them are top notch professional musicians, performing in the Florida Orchestra and other prestigious groups.



2011-2012 KESWICK BAND COMMITMENT CONTRACT

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN TO YOUR MUSIC DIRECTOR(S) (copy as necessary) BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 26.

Please check the group(s) you will be committing this school year:

- Intermediate Band
- Varsity Band
- Wind Ensemble

For the Student:

"I have read the band handbook, I agree to follow the rules in it, and I will cooperate with my director(s) in every way. I will attend all concerts and events pertaining to my group(s). I know this will take a lot of hard work, and I promise to do my very best at being an asset to my group(s), and to fulfill my God given musical potential this year."

Student name (please print)

Student signature

For the Parent(s):

"I understand and commit to follow the contents of the band handbook. I understand that my encouragement and commitment to my child's music education are a crucial part of my son/ daughter's success. My child will participate in all concerts and events. In the event there is an emergency, I will communicate as early as possible with my child's music director."

Father signature

Mother signature

For the Music Director:

"I am committed to giving each young person under my leadership an excellent, God-honoring experience. I will do everything I can to help this young person grow as a musician, as a person, and as a follower of Jesus Christ. I will model Christ-like behavior and motivation. When I am wrong I will admit it. I will model forgiveness and will expect forgiveness. I will not settle for anything less than the best for and from each student, so that he/she may fulfill his/her potential individually, and that we may fulfill our potential as a team, to the glory of God."

