

KMS Band and Choir Handbook 2021-2022

Director: April Peterson - apeterson@kunaschools.org

(Email is the best and fastest way to reach Mrs. Peterson)

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit." - Aristotle

WELCOME

Welcome to room 41! I am Mrs. April Peterson and I teach the band and choir classes at Kuna Middle School. This is my 27th year of teaching, and my 23rd in the great district of Kuna. I have a Bachelors of Music in Music Education from Boise State University (Go Broncos!) and a Masters in Arts and Letters from Southern Oregon University. My husband Bryan and I have three children, one in the US Navy and two at Meridian High School. I am excited to have you participate in my classes! Music is about mastery. It is about students exhibiting skills and communicating the musical knowledge to perform in a large group, small group and/or as a soloist. I want the students to strive to be excellent on their chosen instrument. Above and beyond this - I want to create good people through the use of music. I'm here to teach students, not just music.

BASIC EXPECTATIONS

- **M** - Make good choices and good music
- **U** - Use your time and your words wisely
- **S** - Speak, sing or play only when asked
- **I** - Involve yourself and immediately follow the rules
- **C** - Care for our room and instruments (especially no food or drink except water - and no gum!)

OBJECTIVES - Students will:

Perform, Identify, Develop, Apply, Experience, Study, Respond, Demonstrate, Evaluate and **most importantly - Have FUN! This list looks like a lot, but it isn't - and I'll make it fun!**

DISCIPLINE PROCESS

There is only one consequence for not following an expectation and that is a phone call/email home to the parents. We will absolutely be having fun, but there is no time for goofing around when it is work time. Students will only receive a warning, and the next step is contacting home. **Severe behavior infractions, profanity or other gross misconduct will result in immediate referral to the office.**

EARNING YOUR GRADE

Your grade is determined by assessments - performance, written and on chromebooks. You have to earn your grade, it is not given to you.

WORK ETHIC

As a member of a band or choir, each member is an important part of the ensemble and the group's success is dictated by the contributions of each individual. This means in every rehearsal and every performance each musician **must be giving the very best they can so** that the ensemble can excel. There is an expectation for attitude, dedication, focus, hard work and attendance for every member of every ensemble. Students that hold the group back due to consistently failing to do his/her part may be requested to stay for after school help or removed from the ensemble.

PERFORMANCES

Please make sure the performances are listed on your home calendar to prevent any conflicts. Every student is an important member of the ensemble and performances are **assessments and mandatory.**

PERFORMANCE ABSENCES

The only excused absence from a performance is one that Mrs. Peterson knows about far in advance (in writing/email) or a family emergency or illness. Students with an excused absence will work with Mrs. Peterson to find a way to make up the assessment. All absences will be dealt with on a private basis with Mrs. Peterson, and must be student initiated. Please realize that a concert is the performing group's "final assessment."

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Your actions, speech, and dress while representing the Kuna Middle School Music Department shows everyone how you feel about your ensemble, but also communicates the idea that everyone else in the ensemble feels the same way you do. Let's work together so that we can exhibit some heartfelt **PRIDE and ENTHUSIASM!**

KMS BEHAVIOR

All rules governing the behavior of individuals at Kuna Middle school will be in effect at every rehearsal, performance, and activity.

Come to the performances on time, in proper attire, and ready to make music! If your attitude and concert preparation do not meet these standards, you may be asked to not participate in the concert.

APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

Formal concert performance attire is **BLACK**.

Black shoes, socks and dress pants with a black dress shirt.
No jeans or white shoes.

Band men: whatever wild and crazy tie you would like - Choir men: ties are provided for you

Women have the option of wearing black knee length or longer skirts instead of pants or a solid black dress.

The reason we dress alike is to look as uniform as possible at all performances.

Any student who may have a problem obtaining clothing needs to speak with Mrs. Peterson right away so she can loan you concert attire.

Casual performance attire is jeans and your band or choir shirts. Shirts can be ordered via the links on the music department web page and in Schoology. Our logo has not changed. If you have a friend or relative that has gone on to KHS and no longer wants their shirt, you are welcome to wear it. Please let Mrs. Peterson know if this is a concern or you need assistance obtaining a shirt.

BAND INSTRUMENTS

Label your instruments with your name. If you need a school owned instrument, please see Mrs. Peterson. We have a few available based on need. There is a rental fee of 50.00 for school owned instruments due to the cost of cleaning at the end of the year. If you have a concern about being able to get a band instrument, please see Mrs. Peterson right away - we have ways to make this happen.

WHAT TO PROVIDE FOR CLASS

- Instrument in good working condition (band only)
- Book - (band only - Sound Innovations book 1 for 6th and 7th. 8th grade will be checked out a KMS book)
- Pencil – **NO PENS**
- Proper concert clothing and T-shirt
- **Binder** for all music and class information (this is important!)
- Positive Attitude and your best effort!

COMMUNICATION

Communication is the key to success in all things in life. It is when communication fails that problems occur. Mrs. Peterson tries to maintain active and open communication with parents and students. In the event that there are problems or concerns about anything that is or is not occurring in class, please email Mrs. Peterson for clarification. Often, the issue of concern can be resolved easily with this direct communication.

Parents: Thank you for supporting your child's decision to be a part of a music ensemble! You are a very important part of your child's musical education. Please take the time to listen to them practice and perform. A simple "sounds good" can mean the world to your student.

2021-2022 KUNA MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC CALENDAR

Please put these dates on your calendar so we can avoid conflicts. Some performances don't have a solid date or time at this time, but the months have been listed. Please communicate any scheduling problems now. Students need to arrive 30-45 minutes for every performance

KMS Fall Choir/Orchestra Concert
October 21st, 2021 - KMS Gym - 7:00pm

Dia De Los Muertos - Small ensemble performances
October 29th, 2021 - KMS Cafeteria - 6:00pm

KMS Fall Band Concert
November 4th, 2021 - KMS Gym - 7:00pm

KMS Veteran's Assembly
Band 8 and Choir 7/8
November 11, 2021 (tentative)
1:30pm - KMS Gym

Kuna Christmas Parade (bands)
December 11th, 2021 - 6pm Downtown Kuna

KMS Choir/Orchestra Christmas Concert
December 13th, 2021 - KMS Gym - 7:00pm

KSD All District Choir Concert
March 1, 2022 - KHS Gym - 7:00pm

KSD All District Band Concert
March 10th, 2022 - KHS Gym - 7:00pm

KMS Choir Pre-Festival Concert
April 14th, 2022 - KMS Gym/KPAC - 7:00pm

KMS Band Pre-Festival Concert
April 21st, 2022 - KMS Gym/KPAC - 7:00pm

KMS Band Concert
May 17th, 2022 - KMS Gym - 7:00pm

KMS Choir Concert
May 24th, 2022 - KMS Gym - 7:00pm

KMS Music Department Signature Sheet 2021-2022

RETURN THIS PAGE TO MRS. PETERSON RIGHT AWAY

Student Name	Class
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I have read all the information in the handbook. I understand and agree to follow all expectations set by Mrs. Peterson for the KMS Band and Choir.

Student name printed: _____

Student signature: _____

Date: _____

I have read all the information in the handbook. I am aware of what is expected of my child while they are in the band or choir at KMS.

Parent/Guardian name printed: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Date: _____

Want to help? The KMS Music Department needs YOU!

The KMS Music Department needs your help! Check below if you are wanting to give of your time and/or money to help the KMS musicians. Thank you so much for considering helping our wonderful students!

_____ Monetary Donation - Receipt will be given for tax purposes. Help us buy music for the groups! Most band songs cost between \$50.00-75.00 dollars to purchase. Choir music costs approx. \$2.00 a copy, and we need one copy per person. 7/8th grade choir alone would cost \$160.00 to purchase a new song. Every little bit helps us build our music library. T-shirts are 10.00 each, could you sponsor a shirt? Do you own a business that could help us get what we need? Donation amount _____

_____ I play a band instrument well enough to help a struggling student - your name and instrument. _____

_____ I play piano well enough to accompany students at solo and ensemble festivals. Your name _____

_____ I would like to chaperone band and choir events if we are allowed to attend

_____ I have an instrument in the closet I would like to donate to the band program.

_____ I have a special skill that might be beneficial to the music program.