

Kennard-Dale Marching Band Student Handbook



2026 Edition

Table of Contents

Overview p.2

Attendance p.3-4

- A. District Playoff Requirements
- B. School Attendance Policy
- C. Academic Eligibility
- D. Student Athletes
- E. Excused Absence from Band Camp
- F. Excused Absence from Rehearsal
- G. Excused Absence from Performance
- H. Unexcused Absence from Rehearsal or Performance
- I. Tardiness
- J. Injury

Uniforms and Dress Code p.5-7

- A. Rehearsal Dress Code
- B. Game Day Dress Code
- C. Instrumentalist Uniform Care
- D. Instrumentalist Uniform Dress Code

Rehearsal Policies and Procedures p.7

- A. Preparedness
- B. Cancellations
- C. Student-Led Rehearsals

Performance Policies and Procedures p.8-9

- A. In the Stands
- B. Respect for Visiting Bands
- C. Visitations
- D. Third Quarter Break
- E. Sample Home Game Schedule
- F. Sample Away Game Schedule

Bus Policies and Procedures p.10

Overview

The Kennard-Dale Marching Band is a proud group of musicians, performers, and staff dedicated to maintaining a positive community through a respectful, unified band. The Kennard-Dale Marching Band performs at Parades, Football Games, School Events, and Marching Band Shows.

Participation in the KD Marching Band is voluntary; however, we request that students commit themselves to the **entire** season. Because of the amount of money KD Music Boosters spends to provide a great experience for students, any student who breaks their commitment will be responsible for reimbursing the KD Music Boosters for their costs. This would include - but may not be limited to - drill writing and music arranging fees.

Returning the KD Marching Band Permission Field Trip Travel and Emergency Form signifies that students have read and reviewed the policies of this handbook and are committing to the group for the entirety of the season.

Attendance

Attendance at band camp, all rehearsals, and all performances is **mandatory** for all members of the KD Marching Band. Even one person missing from rehearsal or performance makes it difficult for the absent student **and** other members.

Communication is key.

District Playoff Requirements

If the football team goes to District Playoffs, our season will be extended with more performances. We ask that you keep **the following two Fridays after the season available**, just in case our season continues. Practices for additional games will be at the discretion of staff.

School Attendance Policy

If you are absent from school the day of a game, practice, or the day before a weekend game or activity, you are not allowed to participate at that game. All students must be at school before 9:30 a.m. See the student handbook for additional information.

Academic Eligibility

All students must remain academically eligible in order to participate in rehearsals, performances, and games. Consult the student handbook for exact eligibility requirements.

Student Athletes

Students who plan on splitting time between marching band and another sport **must** provide the director with their sport's schedule prior to the start of the marching season. Student athletes **must** attend at least one rehearsal a week, as well as the Friday show rehearsal. Student athletes are still required to attend all games/performances. It is expected that student athletes will review their music and drill on their own time to make up for missed rehearsals.

Excused Absence from Band Camp

Band Camp is the most important part of the marching season, where students learn the entirety of the season's show. Please do not schedule other trips or vacations during the dates of Band Camp. Little to no exceptions will be made for students, except for "once in a lifetime" events, like a sibling's wedding. Make sure to communicate with the band director **months in advance**.

Excused Absence from Rehearsal

A member can be excused from rehearsal with a valid excuse and notice **via email** sent to the director and their respective staff member at least 24 hours before the rehearsal.

Emergencies such as sudden illness, death in the family, etc. will obviously be acceptable at the last minute. If such an instance occurs, please try to reach out to a KDMB staff member prior to rehearsal.

Excused Absence from Performance

ALL performances are mandatory. Any conflicts with a performance should be submitted to a KDMB staff member before the end of Band Camp. Any conflicts should be a “once in a lifetime” event, like a sibling’s wedding. Please do not schedule other trips or vacations during the marching season. Every performance is important and every member relies on their fellow members to be in their spot performing the music, drill, or routine correctly. Even one absent student can throw off a performance.

Emergencies such as illness, death in the family, etc. will obviously be acceptable at the last minute. If such an instance occurs, please try to reach out to a KDMB staff member prior to an event.

Unexcused Absence from Rehearsal or Performance

An unexcused absence is any absence that doesn’t meet the criteria of an excused absence. Unexcused absences may result in temporary suspension from performance or dismissal from the group. **Employment is not an excuse.** Please provide your employer with your schedule well in advance.

Tardiness

With our limited rehearsal time, tardiness cannot be tolerated. You must be at the designated area (practice field, Band Room, etc.) ready to rehearse by the time specified. It is recommended you show up at least 15 minutes prior to times listed on the schedule.

Injury

If a minor physical injury (sprain, soreness) prevents a student from participating, students must still attend practice and participate musically unless otherwise permitted by an advisor. Whether a major or minor injury, the student should remain in contact with the director regarding their physical state.

Uniforms and Dress Code

A uniform appearance is just one of the ways the KD Marching Band shows its unity as an ensemble. Students should take pride in their uniform as a member of a respected group. When students are in uniform, they wear all parts of the uniform unless one of the directors gives a specific exception. A student should **never** use someone else's uniform or give away pieces of their own. Parent volunteers will help assign uniforms during Band Camp and will hem pants and coats for each member as needed.

Rehearsal Dress Code

Students must abide by student dress code as found in the Student Handbook for band camp and rehearsals. Students should also bring proper footwear to every rehearsal. This includes guard shoes for Color Guard and sneakers for instrumentalists. Flip flops are not acceptable for our level and type of activity.

Game Day Dress Code

Every Friday during the Marching Band season, all members will wear their Show Shirts during the school day as a display of unity and pride in our organization.

Instrumentalist Uniform Care

The current cost to replace a uniform is over \$500. Please handle uniforms with extreme care, especially since we must use these uniforms for many years to come. Uniforms will be kept at school and distributed before each game. Students are responsible for making sure the pants and coats are hung up neatly and placed back in the uniform bag. If a student gets anything on their uniform (food stain, dirt, etc.) please notify a KDMB staff member or one of the parent uniform volunteers **immediately**. The sooner they can treat the stain, the more likely it is that they can get the stain out.

Instrumentalist Uniform Dress Code

Uniform Coat:

- Wear the coat fully zipped and fastened at the collar.
- The black shirt with the Marching Ram logo must be worn under the coat.
- In warm weather, the staff may indicate that coats may be opened or removed.
- In cold weather, students may wear long sleeve shirts under the uniform as long as they are not visible under the coat.

Uniform Pants:

- Suspenders should be adjusted so pants touch the top of the shoe, but should **not** drag on the ground.
- Denim pants should **not** be worn under the uniform pants as denim will cause our uniform pants to wear out faster than normal.

- Shorts and sweatpants may be worn under the uniform pants as long as they are not visible.

Black Dinkles and Socks:

- Only black Dinkles and **tall** black socks that go above the ankle may be worn.
- If you are a new member or you've outgrown your dinkles, they can be purchased for the marching season for \$33.
- Shoes should be cleaned and polished before each performance.

Black Gloves:

- Each woodwind and brass player is required to have a pair of machine-washable black gloves that are distributed during Band Camp.
- The cost of each pair is \$3 for fingered or fingerless gloves. The gloves should be washed between performances.

Hat (Shako)/Plume:

- Each student is assigned a hat (shako) during Band Camp. Students will get their hat and a plume before each performance and return those after the performance.
- The hat should be worn flat on top of head, not the back of the head. Hat level should keep the plume vertical.

Jewelry:

- No visible jewelry should be worn during a KD Marching Band performance. This includes watches, rings, necklaces, bracelets, and hoop earrings. Small, "non-dangling" pierced earrings will be permitted.

Hair:

- Long hair must be worn off the shoulders and may not hang down out of the hat to touch the uniform.
- Hair must be up inside the hat.

Dressing for Weather:

- Students will be provided with a long, insulated coat at rainy performances. Cold weather apparel should match the colors of the marching uniform: blue, gold, or black.
- Hooded sweatshirts should not be worn under the uniform as they create bulges in appearance. Black crewneck sweatshirts may be worn under the jacket as long as they are tucked into the pants and are not visible outside the coat.

Rehearsal Policies and Procedures

Preparedness

All students must be prepared with everything they need at all rehearsals and performances, i.e. instrument, flags, water, sunscreen, music, lyre, drill book, coordinate sheet, etc. We suggest dedicating a bag/backpack with everything you need for rehearsals and games.

Cancellation

Practice cancellation will be at the discretion of the director and staff members. In some cases, certain sections may be canceled while others are asked to stay. Cancellation will be communicated via the intercom at school, as well as Remind.

Never assume that practice is canceled.

Student-Led Rehearsals

No practices are allowed on school property without a member of the KDMB staff. All students must be supervised by an adult. Please make sure a staff member can monitor a student-led rehearsal.

Performance Policies and Procedures

In the Stands

Besides our marching show, playing in the stands to support the football team is one of our most important jobs.

1. No one will play their instrument in the stands unless we are playing together as a group as instructed by a staff member.
2. Students will sit with members of our own music section to produce the best sound possible.
3. Everyone must have their own music and flip folder at every game.
4. A student is only ever allowed to play their own instrument.
5. Only current KD Marching Band members, staff, and chaperones are permitted in the Band section. Band alumni may be permitted in the stands with the director's approval.
6. Students must be ready to play at a moment's notice! Music selections will be called with as much advance notice as possible, but sometimes we will have to quickly change based on game events. It is recommended that students memorize the Fight Song (Notre Dame Victory March) as soon as possible.
7. Snacks and drinks may be distributed at the discretion of the staff members and band parents. Remember, a member's primary job is to be ready to play, **not eat**.
8. Phones should be put away during games unless permission is granted by a staff member.
9. No one is permitted to leave the stands without the permission of a staff member. When students leave, they must travel in groups of at least 2, especially at away stadiums.
10. No matter the outcome, we always support our team and exhibit sportsman-like conduct. Negative comments don't help anyone and will not be tolerated.

Respect for Visiting Bands

We always show respect for the visiting band, their performance, and their individual students. KD Marching Band members are always the best ambassadors of our school district, and this non-competitive environment is our place to encourage other band students. Pay attention to their field show, clap, and cheer at appropriate times as we would expect them to do during our own show.

Visitations

It is typical for the home band to send representatives to visit with the away bands during the first quarter. A combination of Seniors and Student Leaders will be chosen in a rotation to represent our Marching Band.

Third Quarter Break

We will have a break during the third quarter. Everyone must be back in their seat, **ready to play** with 3 minutes left of the third quarter. Failure to return in time to play may result in losing third quarter privileges at the next game.

Sample Home Game Schedule (Subject to adjustments)

2:55pm	Rehearsal at practice field
4:00pm	Stand Tune Rehearsal/Guard Indoor Practice
4:45pm	Break for dinner and getting into uniforms
5:45pm	Line up in parade order
5:45pm	March in parade order to field
6:15pm	Final warm up, tuning, and uniform inspection
6:35pm	Pregame field show performance
7:00pm	Game kickoff

Games are typically 2 – 2.5 hours in length, but that is only approximate.

Sample Away Game Schedule (Subject to adjustments)

2:55pm	Rehearsal at practice field
? - TBD	Break for dinner, trailer loading, and getting into uniforms
6:00pm	Approximate arrival at away stadium
7:00pm	Game kickoff
7:30pm	Halftime Show Performance

Bus Procedures and Policies

All SESD school bus rules apply. Bus sign up will be done during Band Camp. For safety reasons, no one may change their bus assignment unless it is approved through a KDMB staff member. Only KD Marching Band student members, staff members, and chaperones may ride the buses to and from an event. Everyone must ride the bus to and from an event in order to help with loading and unloading at KDHS. The only exception is a student may come home from an event with their parent/guardian or another student's parent/guardian provided that a written note, signed by the student's parent/guardian, is submitted to a KDMB staff member. The parent/guardian taking the student home must sign out the student with a KDMB staff member at the buses after the event.

Let's Make it a Great Season, Go Rams!

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