

**Kiser Middle School Bands**

*A Tradition of Excellence*

Kiser Band Students and Parents:

Welcome to the Kiser Middle School Band Program! We are very excited about having you as a part of our program. The Kiser Middle School Band Program is dedicated to giving students the opportunity to grow musically, socially, and academically. The purpose of our program is to impart an appreciation of music to all our students through study, practice, and performance. Students will have opportunities to participate in concert band, jazz ensemble, pep band, GCS all-County band, NC Central District band, Music Performance Adjudication, and Music in the Park Festivals/Competitions.

Practice Responsibility

Aim for Excellence

Work with Integrity

Show Respect for Self and Others

The Kiser band program relies heavily on our school wide expectations. These expectations are at the core of our success as a group. No one benefits from a student who is skilled on their instrument, but doesn’t bother to bring it to rehearsal, doesn’t put forth their best effort, or doesn’t practice at home. By contrast, the student who may not have much technical ability, but is reliable, practices and really tries; contributes greatly to the group.

**Classroom expectations**

1. Arrive to class on time.

2. Be prepared. Bring your instrument, method book, sheet music and ALL necessary materials to class daily. Necessary materials consist of the following materials:

Pencils (not pens)

Method book/music folder

Sheet music

Instrument supplies

Composition notebook

3. Be in your assigned seat when rehearsal begins.

Instrument assembled

Method book/sheet music on stand according to the posted rehearsal order

4. All instruments should be kept in good working order. Students will need to bring a note from their parents which states their instrument is in repair.

5. Absolutely, no gum, candy, food, or drinks in the band room.

6. Do not handle or play anyone’s instrument other than your own.

7. Be respectful of yourself and classmates through maintaining a positive attitude.

8. Follow directions the first time they are given.

**Grading rubric and policy**

1. Classroom participation-40%

This grade is based on your daily participation, effort, and work ethic in class. Examples of this are as follows:

Knowledge of music

Daily participation

Rehearsal procedure

2. Written/performance assessments-25%

3. Live performances (Concerts)-35%

Students are expected to be at all performances. Parents will need to contact me regarding their child’s attendance for possible conflicts, illness, or transportation issues. Missed concerts cannot be made up; however, if extenuating circumstances require that a student miss a concert, an enrichment project will be provided. Athletic events are not considered to be an excusable or extenuating circumstance.

**Performance Information: Concert Band and Jazz Band**

Concert attendance: Concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in the band. Mark these dates on your calendar NOW! Sporting events and practices are invalid excuses for missing concerts. When a student is absent, they miss the joy of performing for others as well and letdown their band peers. If a student has an unexcused absence, the student will not be able to show their achievement, and therefore the grade will reflect as such.

**Audition-Based Honor Bands**

**GCS All-County Band**:

Guilford County Schools (GCS) band students can audition for a spot in the GCS All-County Band. Auditions will be held at a site in Guilford County.

A clinic will be held in late November for students who make the all-county band. The clinic consists of 2 days of rehearsals with a culminating concert. The audition solo for all county and all district bands is the same.

**Central District Band**:

Band students are strongly urged to audition for All-District Band in January. Middle School bands from across our band district (Central District), are given the opportunity to audition on material selected from a state-approved music list. This audition is held in January. Students who are selected will attend a two-day clinic with a concert. Students need not qualify for the GCS All-County band to audition for All-District Band, but it is highly recommended that students first audition for All-County Band.

**All-State Honors Band**:

Students who make specified seats in the All-District Band may be eligible to audition for the North Carolina All-State Honors Band. Students who make this band will attend a three-day clinic with a culminating concert. The auditions are held in March.

**NC Central District Music Performance Adjudication**

Our concert bands also participate in the Central District Music Performance Adjudication (MPA). MPA benefits music students as follows:

1) Provides a performance opportunity for students and directors that offers a critical assessment of the quality of their performances by highly qualified experts in band performance.

2) Encourages participation in the only state-sanctioned event that provides a summative, standards-based assessment, designed to measure student performance as related to the goals, objectives, and grade-level competencies specified in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.

.

**Music in the Parks Festival**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Concert Band Students participate in the Music in the Parks Festival. Music in the Parks is a day-long or two-day festival for student choral, orchestral, and band ensembles, held annually. Music groups perform before adjudicators who rate the ensemble, and then spend the day at an amusement park. The day culminates with an awards ceremony.

The Kiser Middle School Band is committed to a very high standard of excellence. Students should always try to do their best to improve their own performance and the performance of the group. We have a busy year ahead; it will require diligent work but will also be rewarding.

I look forward to working with you for this school year. Kiser Pride!

Sincerely,

Mrs. White

