

Kernodle Middle School

Cougar Band Handbook



Mrs. Kathryn M. Martin

Director of Bands

martink6@gcsnc.com

Dear Parents and Students:

Thank you for taking the time to look over this handbook in detail. More information will be coming home throughout the school year to give details about the activities listed in this handbook. Your continued support of the Kernodle Band Program and willingness to help is very much appreciated.

Students will need to purchase a Kernodle Band T-shirt at the beginning of the year, which will be used for casual performances and trips throughout the school year. These order forms will be available online.

Please be sure to sign the student/parent agreement during the first week of school so we know you received and reviewed this handbook in detail. If you have any questions about the policies in this handbook, please contact Mrs. Martin. I'm looking forward to an amazing year of making music together!

Musically,
Kathryn M. Martin
Director of Bands
martink6@gcsnc.com
(336) 545-3717

Kernodle Band website:
<https://www.gcsnc.com/Page/81196>

Overview

Band at Kernodle Middle School consists of three levels of ensembles:

6th Grade Band is an introductory class for 6th grade students. Instrument selections include flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, and trombone. Throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to “audition” for more involved instruments such as percussion, baritone/tuba, or low reed instruments. This class's goals are to learn the fundamentals of playing an instrument, music literacy and ensemble skills.

Performance expectations include: Beginning Informance (November)
Spring Concert (Mid-April- Early May)

7th Grade Band is an intermediate ensemble whose focus is to continue fostering the skills learned in 6th Grade Band and to apply them to the element of performing. Students will have the opportunity to fill in more sections of the band and continue to develop their skills on their instruments. There are more opportunities for personal musical development, like all-county and all-district auditioned events, and more group performance opportunities.

Performance expectations include:

- Winter Concert (Early December)
- MPA Concert and Assessment (Mid-March)
- Spring Concert (Early May)

8th Grade Band is our most advanced ensemble whose focus is to perform varied musical repertoire at a high level. Students participate in a full-band class and develop advanced principles of musicality while practicing advanced techniques of their instrument. There are the most opportunities for personal musical development, like all-county and all-district auditioned events, and more performance opportunities. This is the group that is the most likely to go on field trips to perform and compete throughout the year.

Performance expectations include:

- Winter Concert (Early December)
- MPA Concert and Assessment (Mid-March)
- Spring Concert (Early May)

Other performance opportunities, including Pep Band, Field Trips, and Outreach Performances may be offered throughout the school year.

Required Materials

1. Your Instrument

Please try to obtain your instrument as soon as possible. If you are looking to purchase an instrument for your child, please consult Mrs. Martin or a reputable local music store for recommendations. We will play every day!

2. Music and Book

All students should be prepared with their book, band folder, and music with their name and instrument clearly marked. A band folder will be provided by Mrs. Martin.

6th Grade Book: "Essential Elements for Band, Book 1" (yellow and black/white)
(**NOT** Essential Elements 2000)

7th Grade Book: "Essential Elements for Band, Book 2" (red and black cover)

8th Grade Book: "Essential Elements for Band, Book 2" (red and black cover)

Percussion, please purchase the "combined percussion" version of the necessary book (typically spiral bound).

3. Accessories

Make sure to bring any reeds, cork grease, ligatures, valve oil, slide grease, drumsticks, mallets, or anything else you need to keep your instrument in good working order!

4. Pencil

We write reminders in our music to help us perform our best. A great band member always has a pencil!

5. Concert Black

Students are expected to wear all black clothing (no logos, jeans, or athletic attire) for all formal performances. Formal performance dress is outlined in the band handbook.

6. A Great Attitude!

We are going to make the most of our time in band this year- we will make friends, make mistakes, make great effort, make ourselves proud, make memories, but I am **MOST** excited for us to make music together this year!

Instruments

Kernodle has a limited number of school-owned instruments for students to check out. Most of these instruments are our larger instruments such as bass clarinet, bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone, tuba, baritone saxophone, and large percussion equipment. If your child plays one of these instruments, you will need to fill out a **Guilford County Schools Instrument Check Out Form**. This agreement **MUST** be returned before the

student has access to the instrument. This form will be sent home during the first week of school as we assign instruments.

Kernodle does not provide flutes, clarinets, alto saxophones, trumpets, trombones or percussion sticks/mallets/pads. Students are expected to acquire their own equipment by the second week of school. Local music shops offer rentals which are great resources for families unsure about purchasing their child's instrument. Please ask Mrs. Martin for recommendations before purchasing an instrument for your child. **PLEASE DO NOT order an instrument off of Amazon or any other online retailer.** These instruments are usually poorly made, break easily, and are unable to be repaired. This makes learning the instrument extremely difficult and potentially frustrating and discouraging for your child. If you are not sure if you'd like to purchase an instrument, rentals are a great option.

All students are responsible for providing their own supplemental equipment (mouthpiece, reeds, swab, cleaning cloth, cork grease, valve oil, slide grease, etc.) as specified for their instrument. Students are also encouraged to purchase a folding wire music stand for home practice.

Repair:

Students learn proper maintenance and handling for their instrument and are encouraged to take care of their personal or school-owned horn. Students who provide their own instrument are responsible for their own repair. For school-owned instruments, GCS will cover regular wear and tear of the instrument. **Parents and students are responsible for any excessive or intentional damage to school-owned property.** Students should bring their instruments to the director when they encounter a problem. Misuse or abuse of a school-owned instrument may lead to confiscation of that instrument.

Private Lessons:

Private lessons are **not** required for participation in band but are highly encouraged and have been shown to enhance and accelerate the musical learning process. Students at this level typically respond very well to one-on-one instruction that caters to each student's individual needs. Unlike the small groups that will meet during band class time, private lessons can continue through the year and are truly individualized to your student's unique needs and abilities. We encourage all students to study privately if possible. If you are interested, please see Mrs. Martin for help in finding a qualified teacher in the area.

Daily Student Expectations

- Be respectful to all peers and teachers, substitutes, clinicians, etc.
- Be prompt- arrive on time and bring all required materials to class each day.
- Be quiet while instruction is being given.
- Do not bring food or gum into the band room – only water is permitted.
- Do not touch any equipment not assigned to you.
- **Required materials:** instrument, accessories (reed, swab, cork grease, valve oil, etc.); band folder with all handouts, assignments, and music; pencil.

The consequences of not adhering to these expectations are as follows: a warning, a meeting with Mrs. Martin, loss of privileges, being bounced to another class, home contact, detention, administration referral, or removal from the band program.

Storage Room Expectations

- Students can enter the storage room from 8AM - 8:15 AM before homeroom and from 3:20-3:25 PM after school.
- Instrument lockers are only for instruments.
- No eating or drinking is permitted in the storage room.
- The storage room may not be accessed without supervision from an adult.
- Students should move quickly and safely at all times.

Failure to follow storage room expectations will result in a warning (first offense), loss of locker for a day (second offense), loss of locker for the week (third offense), or the inability to use the instrument storage room

Attendance

Band is a team sport where no player is on “the bench”. In music, the best way to learn is by doing, and it is rarely possible to make up work on your own time. Furthermore, every student is a vital part of the ensemble, and students’ absence affects the peers in their section and the entire band. All sectionals, extra rehearsals, clinics, and performances are part of the course and are therefore **graded** activities.

It is the policy of the Kernodle Middle School Band that concerts and performances are an integral part of the learning process in music education. It is expected that when students choose to participate in band, they accept the responsibilities that go along with participation. There will be evening concerts during the school year. These events are considered part of the course requirements. Concert participation results in a grade for all students. This grade is based on attendance, punctuality, concert dress, effort,

and behavior. Students are expected to stay for the entire concert and we again ask that students adhere to the concert dress code as stated in this handbook.

Advance notice is **required** for students to receive excused absences: At least 2 days for a rehearsal, and 2 weeks for a performance. Concert dates must take precedence over extracurricular activities. It should also be noted that a major test grade (double the weight of other test grades) will come from each performance. All excuses will be made at the directors' discretion. In the event of an emergency, please communicate with the director as soon as possible.

Please make every effort possible to schedule doctor, dentist, and other appointments outside of band activities.

Most unexcused absences occur due to lack of communication or planning. Our information can be found in 5 places: the Kernodle Band Website, calendar, the weekly newsletter, and Canvas announcements for the latest updates in the band schedule. This information will be the same across all platforms. Many parents organize carpools to facilitate student attendance at band events.

Assessment and Grading

Each student will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Concerts: 50%

Classwork: 30%

Daily Performance: 20%

NOTE: During some quarters, students may not have a mandatory performance. In this case, a student's grades will be made up of classwork and daily performance.

Band Assignments include:

Performance Attendance:

Students must participate in all required performances for their assigned band class. The dates of all band performances are provided on the calendar at the beginning of the year. Performances are a vital part of music education and are the culmination of months of students' work. Giving a concert is a rewarding experience and instills students with a great sense of pride. Students must have all required materials and arrive in correct concert attire to receive full credit for each performance.

Tests:

Students will have few written exams/assessments covering music theory, rhythm, and other fundamentals.

Students will also be required to submit a few playing tests via Canvas. These tests act as a “check-up” on each student’s progress and provide Mrs. Martin a look at each student’s individual technique.

Projects:

Some projects referring to small group work, music composition, and music history will be assigned throughout the course of the school year.

Performance Assessments:

- a. Engagement in playing each day- failure to play will result in a ZERO for the day.
- b. Listening and following directions the first time they are given.
- c. Focus and concentration on the lesson, looking at music, warm-up exercises, etc. during class/rehearsal.
- d. Demonstration of teamwork, good work habits, respect of teacher and fellow students during class/rehearsal and performances.
- e. Evidence of progress and growth on a daily and weekly basis in instrumental technique, music reading, work ethic etc.
- f. Being on time for class/rehearsal (we only have 40 minutes)
- g. Demonstrating proper instrumental technique while rehearsing (i.e. good posture, good tone, proper breathing, expressive elements, dynamics, etc.)
- h. Warm-ups - Ready position with good posture

Practice Logs:

Practice Logs are required weekly to be submitted via Canvas. Students should turn in completed practice logs every Monday. 6th Grade students are required to submit weekly practice logs. Practice logs will be assigned to 7th and 8th grade classes at the director’s discretion.

Homework/Classwork/Quizzes:

Students will complete listening assignments, research on music history, small composition projects, music theory assignments throughout the year to aid their understanding in all areas of music.

Concert Attire

Students must wear the appropriate attire for all formal and informal band performances. This is included as a part of your performance grade.

Informal Performance Attire (pep rallies, field trips, etc.)

- 2023-2024 Kernodle Band Tee Shirt
- blue jeans
- gym shoes

Formal Performance Attire (concerts, assessment, etc.)

- black dress shirt
- black dress slacks (NO JEANS OR LEGGINGS)
- black dress shoes (NO GYM SHOES OR OPEN-TOED SHOES)
 - Please refrain from dresses/skirts of any length. Exceptions will be made for religious reasons only.

If acquiring performance attire is an issue, please set up a meeting with Mrs. Martin.

Band Awards

Kernodle Bands are proud to offer 4 awards at the end of the year to recognize our outstanding students! We have awards for each grade level recognizing, growth, leadership, musicianship, and spirit. One 8th grade student every year is eligible for the Director's Award. The Director's Award recognizes exceptional service and musicianship during their time in the Kernodle Bands, and their name is instilled on a plaque hanging in the band room. Awards are varied among students and are selected via director, Encore team, and administration discretion.

Parent Volunteers

The Kernodle Band is very fortunate to have the best parents! There are opportunities for parents to chaperone trips with the band, set up concerts, and volunteer in other ways. There will be sign-ups available and a limited number of spots- first come/first serve. You will need to use the volunteer form on the Kernodle Website to be registered as a parent volunteer. If you are not registered with Kernodle as an approved volunteer, you are legally not allowed to go with us on a trip.

Kernodle Band Calendar 2024-2025:

August 26th – First Day of School!

October 10th – Northwest Band Night Rehearsal

October 11th – Northwest Middle School Band Night Performance

(optional- 7th and 8th only)

November 6th – GCS All-County Band Auditions at Northwest Guilford High School

(optional- 7th and 8th only)

November 14th – 6th Grade Band and Orchestra Concert (Required- 6th Grade only)

6 PM in the Kernodle Gym- Students arrive at 5:30 PM

December 4th and 5th – All-County Band Rehearsals at Ragsdale High School

(selected students only)

December 5th – All-County Band Concert, Ragsdale High School Auditorium

December 11th – Winter Band Concert (Required- 7th and 8th Grade only)

6 PM in the Kernodle Gym- Students arrive at 5:30 PM

January 11th – CBDA All-District Band Auditions (optional- 7th and 8th only)

January 31st and February 1st – CBDA All-District Band Clinic (selected students only)

March 4th – MPA Preview Concert (Required- 7th and 8th Grade only)

6 PM in the Kernodle Gym- Students arrive at 5:30 PM

March 10th -21st – MPA Field Trip (Required- 7th and 8th Grade only)

The field trip will be during school on ONE of these dates. More information will be provided closer to the event.

May 13th – Spring Band Concert (Required- 6th and 7th Grade only)

6 PM in the Kernodle Gym- Students arrive at 5:30 PM

May 20th – Music Department 8th Grade Concert (Required- 8th grade only)

6 PM Location TBD – Students arrive at 5:30 PM

June 11th – Last day of school

Other events throughout the year are to be determined at the director's discretion. All mandated performances are on the calendar.

Student/Parent Agreement Form

Student: This form is due by Friday, September 6 in class.

I certify that I have read the Kernodle Band Handbook and am aware of the expectations, how I will be graded, and my required performances. I agree to do my best to uphold my responsibilities and obligations as a member of the Kernodle Band.

Student Name (sign): _____ Date: _____

Student Name (print): _____ Grade: _____

Parents/Guardians: Thank you for reading the Kernodle Band Handbook. Please sign below and return the form to indicate that you understand all responsibilities and commitments necessary for your student to be a successful member of the band.

Parent Name (sign): _____ Date: _____

Parent Name (print): _____

Parent Email: _____