



Klein Collins Band Handbook

2024-2025

Klein Collins Alma Mater

Our hearts fill with pride, Klein Collins, for you!
Our spirit is high and our loyalty true.
Within your great halls our hist'ry is told.
We honor Klein Collins, the Navy and Gold!
Stand tall! Hail Alma Mater, so bold!
With strength born of truth,
We'll remember our youth,
We honor Klein Collins, the Navy and Gold!

Klein Collins Fight Song

Tiger spirit carries us to capture every win,
Tigers bold and brave together join in victory.
Fight! Fight! Fight!
Navy blue and gold colors true,
Tiger pride will carry us through!
Push on to victory,
Tigers will win again

Forward

CONGRATULATIONS on your decision to be a part of the Klein Collins Band! This handbook is designed to guide parents and students through the many aspects of the KC Band Program. Please understand “band” means Color Guard, Winterguard, Percussion and Winds (brass and woodwinds are all wind instruments). Throughout this handbook, the word “band” includes all of our subgroups. For more information, please contact Alexa Thibodeaux, Klein Collins Director of Bands, at athibodeaux1@kleinisd.net or 832-484-5500 ext. 45305. Additionally, please frequently check our website, www.kleincollinsband.org and our new platform, CutTime.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Klein Collins Tiger Band is to provide opportunities for musical growth to students while striving for excellence in performance and entertainment. We seek to instill discipline and dedication by promoting unity, building integrity and competing with pride and passion.

What is Band really about?

As we begin the year together, it is important to discuss and understand the effect band can have on your life and the scope in which band can have an impact. Of course, as a body of musicians, we desire to produce expressive music and/or dance together, but as you already know, band is so much more than a music class. As you gauge members of our community, you will be pleased to find leaders in every field received their start and often credit their success to the time they spent in their high school band programs. Band is a unique experience that allows us to learn not only music, but also develop the traits sought after by employers, universities, and even future spouses! Band teaches discipline, work ethic, responsibility, punctuality, time management, communication skills and leadership. If you were to poll recruiters at any major university, you would find most, if not all, would tell you being in band sets you apart from other applicants. Recruiters seek out high achieving students who have given their time and energy to band because they know these students will succeed within the rigors of university life.

So “WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO ME,” you ask? It means “if you can make it here, you can make it anywhere!” Your hard work and dedication to the KC Band makes you extremely desirable to potential employers and major universities. Above all else, band is designed to teach you the life / leadership skills that will allow you to be

successful in your future endeavors while having fun and building lifelong relationships.

The Klein Collins Band Staff Educational Philosophy

The KC Band Staff's educational philosophy can be summarized in three short but very powerful words: **WE TEACH KIDS**. The medium through which we teach the kids is band, of course. We work to help students in our band program become well-rounded, productive members of society. Personal responsibility, teamwork, work ethic, leadership and appreciation of all art forms are the skills at the core of our educational goals for your child. We also believe that our students will not grow as people if they are not building positive relationships and having fun with those around them. Our "band-related" goals include helping each student become a better individual musician and performer, exhibiting the highest quality at every performance, fostering a familial atmosphere in all band activities and helping our students to become life-long supporters and advocates of the arts, music in particular.

Do I (and my parents) really need to read this handbook?

In a word, YES! The information in this document guides our program and protects you and the Klein Collins Band. It is in your best interest to be familiar with the policies and procedures described in the next few pages, as they detail the operation and decision-making processes of the band program. By signing the Handbook Receipt Page, both you and your parents agree to adhere to all aspects included in the handbook. Like any binding document, it is important to read and understand it before you sign.

Three Basic Rules of the Klein Collins Band

- ❖ DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN THE RIGHT WAY
- ❖ BE HONORABLE IN ALL YOU DO
- ❖ REMEMBER: EVERYTHING YOU DO REFLECTS ON YOU, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR SCHOOL, YOUR COMMUNITY AND THE KLEIN COLLINS BAND.

The Klein Collins Band Staff

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|------------------|-------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Alexa Thibodeaux | Director of Bands | athibodeaux1@kleinisd.net | 832-484-5500 ext. 45305 |
| Jessica Calvit | Assistant Band Director | | |
| Matt Hernandez | Percussion Specialist | mhernandez11@kleinisd.net | |
| Eddie Jimenez | Color Guard Director | KCColorGuard@kleincollinsband.org | |

Administration Organizational Chart

We know from time to time parents and students may have questions or concerns regarding the band program. To assist you in resolving these issues, please follow the organizational chart below:

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|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 st point of contact | Lead teacher of your child's class |
| 2nd | Alexa Thibodeaux KCHS Director of Bands |
| 3rd | Your child's Assistant Principal (See www.kleincollins.kleinisd.net to find your assigned Assistant Principal) |
| 4th | Randy Kirk KCHS Principal |
| 5th | Frank Chuter KISD Director of Fine Arts |
| 6th | Beth Gilleland Executive Director, Teaching & Learning |

Band Organizations

Band is a **full year course** consisting of two distinct seasons.

Fall Semester

- ❖ Considered Marching Season
- ❖ All students will be placed in classes by instrument they play.

Spring Semester

- ❖ Considered Concert Season for winds and percussion and Winterguard Season for color guard members.
- ❖ All students will be placed into one of four concert bands. All students must audition for their Spring Semester class placement in December. Placements are determined by:
 - o attendance at all rehearsals and performances, including tardiness or leaving early
 - o performance at the audition
 - o participation and success in region auditions and solo/ensemble competitions
 - o work ethic, attitude, and scheduling conflicts

The following is a description of the various groups associated with the Klein Collins High School Band Program:

Marching Band: performs at all KCHS varsity football games, KCHS pep rallies, marching contests and various other school and community events. All Marching Band rehearsals and performances are required, including summer band. Membership in the Marching Band is **required** of all Band students. In extremely rare and severe cases, a student's involvement in the Marching Band may be individually structured. These cases must be approved by Alexa Thibodeaux, KCHS Director of Bands, no later than the end of the previous school year.

Wind Ensemble:, The premier concert band at KCHS. The Wind Ensemble performs a wide range of literature primarily from the high school varsity level and into the college level. Students in the Wind Ensemble are **expected** to participate in the TMEA All-State Band process by preparing the required etudes and auditioning for the Region IX All-Region Band and/or All-Region Orchestra. Wind Ensemble members are **required** to perform a solo and are **expected** to participate in a chamber ensemble in the KISD Solo and Ensemble Contest. Members of the Wind Ensemble are **expected** to take private lessons. The Wind Ensemble performs at the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest as well as other concerts and competitions throughout the year.

Symphonic Band: The second band at KCHS. The Band performs literature primarily from the high school varsity and non-varsity repertoire. Students in the Symphonic Band are ***highly encouraged*** to prepare the etudes and audition for the All-Region Band. Symphonic Band members are ***required*** to prepare and perform a solo and are ***highly encouraged*** to participate in a chamber ensemble in the KISD Solo and Ensemble Contest. Members of the Symphonic Band are ***expected*** to take private lessons. The Symphonic Band performs at the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest as well as other concerts and competitions throughout the year.

Concert Band: The third band at KCHS. The Concert Band performs literature primarily from the high school non-varsity repertoire. Members of the Concert Band are ***required*** to prepare and perform a solo and are ***highly encouraged*** to participate in a chamber ensemble in the Solo and Ensemble Contest. Members of the Concert Band are ***highly encouraged*** to take private lessons. The Concert Band performs at the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest as well as other concerts and competitions throughout the year.

Varsity Band: The fourth band at KCHS. The Varsity Band performs literature primarily from the high school non-varsity repertoire. Members of the Varsity Band are ***required*** to perform a solo at the Klein ISD Solo & Ensemble contest. Members of the Varsity Band are ***encouraged*** to take private lessons. The Varsity Band performs at concerts throughout the year and may participate in additional contests and festivals, depending on instrumentation and eligibility.

Indoor Percussion: under the direction of Matt Hernandez, meets after school from November until April each year. The KCHS Indoor Percussion is competitive in both the TCGC and WGI circuits and participates bi-annually in WGI International Championships in Dayton, Ohio. Placement for Indoor Percussion is by audition and students will incur additional costs and fees for expenses during the indoor season.

Symphony Orchestra: Wind and percussion players combined with members of the KCHS Orchestra under the direction of Carlos Lara (KCHS Orchestra Director) and Alexa Thibodeaux. Selection for this ensemble is based on competitive audition, ability level, and instrumentation needs. The Symphony Orchestra performs at the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest as well as other concerts and competitions throughout the year.

Color Guard: under the direction of Mr. Eddie Jimenez, is a vital and integral part of the KCHS Band Program. All Color Guard members are part of the Marching Band in the fall semester.

Winterguard: under the direction of Eddie Jimenez is competitive in both the TCGC and WGI circuits and participates bi-annually in WGI International Championships in Dayton, Ohio. All Color Guard members are **expected** to take private lessons. The Winterguard may be divided into ability-based groups, including but not limited to, Varsity Winterguard and JV Winterguard.

Rehearsals Outside of the School Day

KCHS Band rehearsals outside of the school day include the following:

- ❖ Marching Band Rehearsals
- ❖ Winter Concert Rehearsals (Wind Ensemble)
- ❖ Spring Sectionals and Full Band Rehearsals (Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band)
- ❖ Indoor Percussion Ensemble Rehearsals
- ❖ Winterguard Rehearsals
- ❖ All-State/All-Region etude mini-lessons / help sessions
- ❖ Solo and Ensemble mini-lessons / help sessions / rehearsals
- ❖ Symphony Orchestra Rehearsals (not graded, but attendance may affect membership).

Attendance

The complete schedule for band rehearsals, contests, and concerts is posted at www.kleincollinsband.org and on CutTime. The CUTTIME CALENDAR will be the authority used to determine the band schedule. ALL rehearsals are REQUIRED for ALL students in the prescribed organization. Each student is important to the success of these many activities. We expect 100% attendance. Please refer to the Klein Collins Band Attendance Policy for guidelines regarding what constitutes an excused and/or unexcused absence.

All rehearsals are part of our curriculum and, as such, will be included as a part of the band grade. An unexcused absence at a rehearsal will result in a loss of performance status for that week and the student will not be permitted to perform at the game and/or marching contest for that week. Multiple unexcused absences may result in the student moving to a lower band class and/or removal from the KCHS Band Program.

Performances

All performances are required of all students in the prescribed ensemble(s). For an absence from a performance to be excused, it must be communicated to the primary director of that affected ensemble at least three weeks prior to the absence. The directors will then make the decision, in conjunction with the KCHS administration if necessary, as to whether the absence is excused or unexcused. Any unexcused absence from a performance may result in the student moving to a lower band class, losing participation lettering points for the current year or possible removal from the band program.

Grading

The majority of band assignments are set to meet the TEKS established by TEA for Fine Arts classes. Band is not a class where blanket grades are given or where a 100 is given for the six weeks based solely on attendance at rehearsals and performances; in neither case do those grading practices meet TEA regulations regarding what should be taught (TEKS) in Fine Arts classes.

The KCHS band classes will follow the grading guidelines set by Klein ISD. Each class will have major grade assignments and minor grade assignments, as well as credit for attendance at rehearsals and performances, each grading period. Playing assignments will usually have a deadline, but students will be able to retest playing assignments for a higher grade either until the deadline has passed or until the end of the grading period (whichever is specified in the assignment.) Both students and parents should check grades online regularly so students can plan to make up or retest prior to deadlines or the end of the grading period.

Ensemble Rehearsal Skills: skills that are evaluated every rehearsal (in and outside of regular school hours) and may be included as evaluations for the grading period. Below is not simply a checklist, but a list of the approximate hierarchy of skills.

Ensemble rehearsal skills include:

- ❖ Attending all rehearsals, unless excused *in advance*
- ❖ Being in your seat, ready to play at the time the rehearsal is scheduled to begin.
- ❖ Having all of your own music, a pencil, your instrument in optimal condition, all supplies needed to maintain the condition of your instrument, all accessories required by the music (mutes, mallets, etc) with you in place at the start of rehearsal.

- ❖ Listening to all instructions and announcements.
- ❖ Maintaining your attention on the rehearsal (not allowing yourself to be distracted or distracting others from the rehearsal)
- ❖ Having your individual part prepared for each rehearsal. (Able to play notes, rhythms, articulations, and dynamics accurately).
- ❖ Knowing where you are in the music at all times, **especially** when you are not playing, whether you are not playing because you have a rest or because others are working without you.
- ❖ Maintaining regular visual contact with the conductor.
- ❖ Understanding your part within the context of the music (melody, harmony, accompaniment)
- ❖ Listening to and adjusting how you sound within the context of the ensemble (blend, balance, tuning, quality of tone, etc.)
- ❖ Understanding the form of the music.
- ❖ Leadership in the ensemble by your own understanding and playing

Private Lessons

All KCHS Band members are encouraged to take private lessons. We have an outstanding lesson staff of professional musicians on every instrument. Private lessons are the best way to improve as an individual musician. The one on one instruction in a lesson setting is invaluable in a student's musical progress. Scheduling will be based on instructor availability, seniority within the instructor's studio, and student schedule. Please see our website, www.kleincollinsband.org, for a complete list of private lesson faculty.

Band Hall and Fine Arts Facilities

Our Fine Arts Facility is one of the nicest in the area. It is the responsibility of all band members to keep it looking this way. Food and drinks are not allowed in the band hall areas without director's permission. Students may not "hang out" in the band hall areas - no one is allowed in the Percussion Room 235, Instrument Storage Room, Color Guard Room, Ensemble Room 234, Library, or Uniform Room without permission from a director. Students may practice in the Practice Rooms before and after school, if they are not in use by a private teacher. Only one student is permitted in each Practice Room, unless given permission from a director. Only music students are allowed in the Band Hall; all others must wait outside the Band Hall. In accordance with KCHS regulations, students MAY NOT be in the band hall after school or rehearsal unless they are

specifically working with a director or teacher. Students must wait outside for rides when there are no directors in the band hall.

School Owned Instruments

Klein ISD provides selected woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments for students to use at KCHS. Klein ISD will assess an annual fee to use school owned instruments (\$50 for winds and \$25 for percussion). That fee will be added to your School Cash at the start of each school year. These instruments are very expensive and must be treated as such. We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition in which it was issued. Repair of any damage, even minor, will be the financial responsibility of the student who was issued the instrument. Do not take a school owned instrument to the shop without contacting a director first. We only use certain repair shops and need to be sure the work is done correctly. Most of the time, the directors will send the instrument to the shop and give the student or parent the invoice for the repair cost. The invoice must be paid in full before the student may receive the instrument back.

Conduct

All KCHS Band Members are always expected to exhibit conduct above reproach, both in and out of band settings. By the time a student reaches high school, he/she should know how to behave appropriately. The high standards set by KCB will be strictly enforced. Poor behavior is a sign of a lack of pride and a lack of concern for the Band Program. Members who continually display inappropriate conduct and/or violate school policies may receive consequences in the Band Program as well as through the KCHS Administration. These consequences may include loss of performing privileges, being moved to a lower level band class and/or removal from the Band Program.

Letter Jackets

Please see the current Klein ISD High School Student Handbook to see the most current criteria for earning a Letter Jacket in band. The requirements are printed on page 138 in the High School Handbook.

Klein ISD Fine Arts pays for the band and guard letter jackets. Any additional money you choose to pay is for the personalized patches many students want to add to the jacket. The jacket, with a KC Band Letter on the front, is awarded to all band students who meet the criteria, with no financial obligation.

Please note the first criteria for every Klein ISD letter jacket is that the student is in good standing and has had no unexcused absences from required rehearsals/practices and performances.

Travel Policy

KC Band students are to ride to and return from all football games, marching contests, concert contests and some additional events as a group via KISD transportation. On rare occasions an emergency, family commitment, or other KCHS event necessitates that a parent provide transportation to and/or from the KC Band event. In these instances, the following applies:

- ❖ The director must be notified of the transportation plan at least 3 school days before the event.
- ❖ The director must receive an email or written note from the parent(s) involved prior to the band's departure for the event. The note must state exactly who is picking up the child and must include the date of the event.
- ❖ If a parent is picking up a student, a director must see the parent take the student from the event. OR, if a parent is dropping off, the student must immediately check in with a director at the event.

This protects the KCHS Band Program, KCHS, KISD, the parent, and most importantly the student.

*Parents are responsible for their student's transportation to and from Region Band, Region, Region Orchestra Auditions, and Solo and Ensemble contests.

Football Games

Football games are a lot of fun and we are there to support the team and perform our very best. Band members can stand up, cheer, and dance in support of the team throughout the game, but should always remain in his/her "spot". It is important to always be aware of the expensive equipment around you and the need to be ready to play at a moment's notice. Students are always required to hold their instruments when the entire band is in the stands – damage to instruments will be the responsibility of the student to whom the instrument belongs or to whom the instrument is checked out. Only current band members are allowed in the Band area at football games. No exceptions!

No food, or drinks are allowed in the Band area except your water jug (filled with water only) and the drink provided by the Logistics Crew after half time. Specific medical or

religious conditions must be discussed with the director well in advance to plan for alternative scenarios to these procedures.

Students should use the restroom before and after the game and avoid going during the game. If an emergency arises during the game, it should be brought to the attention of the band directors.

Band Uniforms

It is a privilege to wear any uniform of the Klein Collins High School Band Program. Whether it is a marching band uniform, concert attire, or color guard costume, the same standards apply. Be sure you have all parts of your uniform for all performances. All uniform parts must be worn correctly or not at all. If you have any issues with your uniform, please see a Uniform Officer or Color Guard Officer ASAP.

Never attempt to alter or “fix” your uniform on your own. If your uniform does not meet the high standard required in the KCHS Band Program, you may be removed from a performance and not allowed to travel with the Band.

Marching Uniform Guidelines

All marching uniforms must be checked out for each performance and neatly checked in after each performance. You will wear our compression shirt and navy KCB shorts, the Marching Band Uniform. Solid black calf-length socks and the black marching shoes must always be worn with the uniform. Baggy or bulky shorts or jeans are never appropriate under the uniform. Hair must not touch the collar of the uniform and should be kept up in a bun under the shako. All hair colors must be natural colors; no exotic hair colors (green, blue, pink, etc.) will be permitted. Piercings (ears, nose, etc) must be removed or covered with a bandage while in uniform.

Concert Uniform Guidelines

All students should look like they belong on a professional concert stage. Male students will be provided with a tuxedo jacket and tuxedo pants. Male students must supply their own tuxedo shirt, solid black calf-length socks, black bowtie and black dress shoes. Female students will be provided with a black concert dress. Female students must supply their own black dress shoes. Appropriateness of shoes will be at the director’s discretion. Shorts or jeans are never permitted under the dresses. Jewelry must be kept to a minimum while wearing the concert attire.

Color Guard Costume Guidelines

The Color Guard Director will address all color guard costume guidelines as they can vary from year to year. All hair and makeup accessories will be the responsibility of the individual member.

Student Leadership Team

The KCHS Band Student Leadership Team is composed of band members who have sought out and earned a leadership role in the band program. These students put in extra hours of work outside of the “regular” band schedule. They act as liaisons between the band staff and students and help teach, inform, and organize the members of the band. All band members are to immediately and respectfully follow the instructions given by the Student Leadership Team members. The Student Leadership Team is auditioned, elected, and selected in the late spring for the following year.

KCHS Fine Arts Department

All KCHS Band members are expected to be leaders and model students throughout the KCHS Fine Arts Department and the entire school. Students are to be supportive of all other Fine Arts students and their work, as well as courteous and helpful to all KCHS Fine Arts staff members.

Band Registration

Registration Day is held the Saturday after the first week of Summer Band. This is when you will order supplies, pay outstanding dues, and sign up for volunteer opportunities. The Band Staff and the Klein Collins Band Association (KCBA) fully understand that financial situations may arise and we will work with you. However, students will not receive ordered items until they have been paid for in full. Every parent will have opportunities to volunteer to help the KC Band. These dues and volunteer hours are of the utmost importance and our Band Program does not function without them. A specific list of dues, required items, prices, and volunteer opportunities will be provided to parents before Band Registration and on the band website.

Overnight Trips

Any overnight trips are governed by KISD policies concerning approval, administration supervision, eligibility, and absences. All students and parents will sign a Student Code of Conduct While on a KCHS Band Trip form before leaving on the trip. This form outlines all conduct, punctuality, and discipline policies and expectations.

CutTime

We are migrating our student database from Charms to CutTime. More information is coming soon!

Band Website

The Band's website: www.kleincollinsband.org. Parents and students should check the web site frequently for updated information, calendar, upcoming events, and pictures of the band in action.

Conclusion

This document is meant to guide the decision-making process of students, parents, and directors of The Klein Collins Band. It is not, however, designed to be an all-inclusive list of rules and regulations. It is impossible to discuss each scenario that could face our band. The directors will use their best judgment to evaluate and interpret each situation and make decisions that are in the best interest of KCB and its membership.

Please remember that the purpose of a handbook is to provide information and create a framework within which important decisions can be made. Diligent adherence to these ideals will allow our program to continue to prosper. Thank you in advance for your efforts to uphold the rules and responsibilities of the Klein Collins Band to the best of your ability and to your dedication to our program.