

The Pride of Kathleen



Student Handbook

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Introduction

The Kathleen High School Band Program aims to give each student a tremendous musical enriching experience and promote academic excellence. In addition, we strive to provide each person with memories and instill **PRIDE** that will last a lifetime. Hopefully, these experiences will be some of the most rewarding memories in high school, so cherish every moment.

The Pride of Kathleen Band

What is a Red Devil Band Member? It is a student who performs as an instrumentalist or auxiliary member in the Kathleen High School Band Program, formerly known as “The Pride of Kathleen.” Being part of the band program is a **Full-Year commitment**, which includes two seasons: marching and concert season. Auxiliary also has two seasons: marching and winter season.

For a band and auxiliary members to perform at any performance, they must be present at **ALL** rehearsals in preparation for that particular event.

The band's website and social media platforms display a calendar of events and report times, which are available 24/7 and updated daily. You can also sync the Calendar to your respective cellular device.

Students are advised to be **15 minutes early** inside the band room before any performance, event, or rehearsal. Vacations and personal events should **NOT** be scheduled on set band dates, such as football games, competitions, band camp, etc. The only absences excused without prior notice are illness that requires medical attention or a death in the family.

Rehearsals and performances make up a considerable portion of each student's grade. Suppose a member misses a performance and it is an unexcused absence. In that case, the director has the right and authority to **not** guarantee participation in future performances or ensembles for the remainder of that year. Students with bad attitudes, lack of commitment, and poor work ethic may be dismissed from the program. This decision is at the discretion of the Band Director.

If a student quits The Pride of Kathleen Band Program before the completion of a school year and does not fulfill his/her commitments to the Band Program, under no circumstances will the student be allowed to return to the Program at any future time, **no exceptions**.

ALL Pride of Kathleen Members have financial obligations **every year** to ensure each student has the necessary uniform and equipment to be successful in the KHS Band Program.

There are monthly Parent Meetings with valid information for both Parents/Guardians and Students. Attendance is highly encouraged. Parent/guardian contact information must always be updated for the safety of all students.

Being part of The Pride of Kathleen Band Program is a privilege. Each student should fully honor his or her commitment. There will be **no exceptions**.

Eligibility

A 2.0 grade point average is required for academic eligibility. A high school student must have a cumulative 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 unweighted scale or equivalent after each semester to be academically eligible during the next semester. Any student who receives ISS will not participate in extracurricular game activities during in-school suspension. Practice is acceptable. Any student who receives OSS is excluded from participating in all extracurricular activities from the date of the offense until completion of the disciplinary action, and the student has attended a regular school day (Section 2.08).

A student or leadership member who receives ISS or OSS, for any reason, will be taken out of any honor ensemble and removed from their leadership position immediately. Including All-County Band, All-State Band, Color Guard recitals, etc.. These ensembles are for The Pride of Kathleen Band members who exemplify great character, musical excellence, commitment, and respect for the Student Code of Conduct.

Cell Phone Policy

Per School policy, Cell phones are permitted to be used only before, between classes, at your designated lunch time, or after school. This is during **NON-Instructional/NON-Class time**. They will NOT be permitted during rehearsals or performances. This includes, cellular devices, headphones/air pods, or any other electronics. Students will be asked to put devices away in their lockers at the beginning of rehearsals. We will have focused, structured, complete, and undivided attention from all students. Tuners will be provided by a staff member. If there are any emergencies, please contact Mr. Miller directly.

Grading

In all performing arts classes at KHS, students are graded on their attendance, daily participation/preparedness, rehearsals, and performances.

Band and Auxiliary are co-curricular classes in which students are graded frequently in and out of class. To align this performance-based class to a standard academic course, here is how the grading lines up.

- 10% Attendance (Being on time, Preparedness, Performance Reflections)
- 20% Pre-MPA = Semester Exams (Marching and Concert Season)
- 30% Classwork = Homework grades & Playing test
- 40% Performances = Test grades (Football Games, Concerts, MPA's, Competitions,etc)

Attendance Policy

Punctuality is necessary for the students to succeed in the KHS Band Program.

“To be early is to be On Time. To be on time is to be Late. To be late is Unacceptable.”

Attendance policy will be enforced. Unexcused absences will result in a “0” in FOCUS K-12.

1st - 3rd Tardy/Absences – Verbal Warning

4 or more Tardies/Absences – Referral to Discipline office with Parent/Guardian Conference

All students must attend every class and rehearsal. If a student misses rehearsal/performance, a parent or guardian must email the band director immediately. The band Director will determine excused absences. Students who also have bad attendance or skip their other scheduled classes may be unable to participate in rehearsals, performances, etc. Losing credit for the course, which may interfere with their ability to graduate on time.

A multitude of absences can result in the following:

- Ability to perform at a high level in class and at a performance
- Can affect possible future placement in the program
- Taking a student off the field/not performing during concert season
- Dismissal from the program

Disciplinary Actions

Respect is expected to be shown towards everyone. Including the band director, staff members, parents, volunteers, and all peers, **no exceptions.**

Any student that defies the rules and regulations of the KHS Band Program or Student Code of Conduct are subject to disciplinary actions such as:

- Verbal Warning
- Letter of Warning signed by a Parent/Guardian
- 2nd Letter of Warning signed by a Parent/Guardian with a Parent Conference
- Dismissal from the Program

FOCUS K-12

To provide parents with easily accessible information about students’ progress and attendance Kathleen High School will post report cards and progress reports to **FOCUS K-12**. If parents need assistance accessing FOCUS, they can visit the Registration office anytime. <https://focusk12.polk-fl.net/focus/> Parents can request a printed version of a student’s report card through the front desk if needed. Thank you in advance for supporting our initiatives to increase access to your student’s school information through FOCUS K-12.

Financial Responsibilities

All Marching Red Devil members are responsible for band dues. These funds help the band program's operation, including food, music, transportation, equipment, etc. The KHSBBA handles all funds for The Pride of Kathleen Band Program. There is a payment plan available. Please contact the KHSBBA Treasurer or the Band Director for further details. There may be additional expenses for food and personal expenses at away games and competitions.

Instrumentalists:

New/Incoming Students: \$395

- Band Booster Fees: \$125 (transportation, home game food, gloves, shirt, district fees)
- KHS Band Jumpsuit (mandatory uniform): \$120
- Band Shoes: \$35
- Instrument Rental Fee: \$25/semester (\$50/year) (Pay to the Front Office)
- Uniform Fee: \$60 (Pay to the Front Office)

Returning Students: \$225 w/o Shoes; \$265 w/ Shoes

- Band Booster Fees: \$125 (transportation, home game food, gloves, shirt, district fees)
- Band Shoes (if needed): \$35
- Instrument Rental Fee: \$25/semester (\$50/year) (Pay to the Front Office)
- Uniform Fee: \$60 (Pay to the Front Office)

Colorguard: (prices may vary based on uniform)

New/Incoming Students: \$270

- Band Booster Fees: \$150 (uniform + shoes, Band Booster Fees)
- KHS Band Jumpsuit (mandatory uniform): \$120

Returning Students: \$150

- Band Booster Fees: \$150 (uniform + shoes, Band Booster Fees)

Baton/Drill Team: (prices may vary based on uniform)

New/Incoming Students: \$445

- Band Booster Fees: \$100
- Uniform Costs: \$225
- KHS Band Jumpsuit (mandatory uniform): \$120

Returning Students: \$325

- Band Booster Fees: \$100
- Uniform Costs: \$225

KHS Band Booster Organization

KHS Red Devil Band Boosters Inc. was founded in 2013 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization made up of volunteer parents/guardians, alumni, and community members who devote their time to providing help and support for the band program at Kathleen High School, with fundraising, concessions, purchasing equipment, etc. All parents/guardians of students involved in any of the ensembles under the umbrella of the band program are, by default, voted members of the booster's organization. For more information, please visit the KHS website.

There are monthly Parent Meetings with valid information for both parents/guardians and students. Attendance is highly encouraged. These brief meetings discuss finances, upcoming fundraisers, band events, and other important events/information.

Fundraising

Fundraising is an essential part of the Band Program. It helps support the Band Program and provides funds for individual band accounts. The Director of Bands and KHSBBA come up with fundraising ideas that they observe help the band the most throughout the year. If you have any school-appropriate fundraising ideas to help the band, please contact the KHSBBA or Mr. Miller directly.

Each member of The Pride of Kathleen Band Program, including Auxiliary Members, are **required** to participate in Band fundraisers. The student can physically participate or pay the fundraiser opt-out fee. Members are encouraged to participate in fundraisers for team building and comradery. Please see The KHSBB Treasurer for opt-out fee details.

Volunteering

The Pride of Kathleen Band Program is a **full-year** commitment to the students and their parents/guardians. Throughout the year, with the vast number of events and performances, we will always need parent/guardian help and commitment to this program, just as we expect from the students. Volunteering gives the students and staff the security they need to know everyone is safe, and we have the assistance to regulate an event smoothly.

We aim to attract seven or more parents/guardians to every event. To volunteer, please visit the khsband.org website. You must be registered with a badge before volunteering for any Polk County school event.

Being in The KHS Band Program is a FULL-YEAR commitment. If a student chooses not to participate for the entire year, the student will be requested to change their schedule immediately.

Rehearsals

This pertains to both the Marching and Concert Seasons. ALL Rehearsals are MANDATORY. Students are asked to be prepared and in your seat for rehearsal **at least 15 minutes before** the scheduled start time. Any unexcused absence, will receive a "0" in the gradebook.

Students are expected to dedicate time every day to practicing at home. Each student's daily homework is to practice their instrument/routine according to the instructor's instructions.

Practice is what you do at home/on your own, i.e., personal preparation or learning how to play/perform something. **Rehearsal** is when you execute what you've practiced and put it into a finalized form you'll use for performance, either with the band or group.

Many times, staff members will be present to assist the Band Director. They must be treated with the utmost courtesy, focus, and respect.

Instruments/equipment should be in proper working order and cleaned, including all necessary supplies (reeds, mouthpieces, flags, etc.). You must have all of your own music/equipment ready for rehearsals.

NO cell phones or electronic devices will be permitted.

Band Room Rules

Absolutely:

- No eating or drinking in uniform
- No gum
- No profane, distasteful, or derogatory comments/language
- No running/horseplay
- No sleeping
- No public displays of affection (no P.D.A)

Physical Education Credit!

Marching Band is considered a physical education activity. For one semester of marching band, any student with a grade of "C" or better waives the .5 credit requirement of a physical education activity elective (Section 1003.4282, F.S.). Therefore, students will be conditioned daily to physically and mentally prepare for the duration of performances with running, jumping jacks, etc., to build their endurance. This includes dancers and color guard members.

Outfitting The Kathleen High School Band

The KHS Band uniforms are to be treated with utmost respect. While in uniform, everyone represents Kathleen High School and The Pride of Kathleen Band Program. Band Room Rules apply while in uniform. Please represent yourself accordingly.

The band will provide each student with a marching and concert uniform. All uniforms are property of the band, excluding Auxiliary. The uniforms are distributed before and collected immediately after every performance and stored in the uniform room. Since these uniforms are used yearly, students are expected to take care of them. This entails properly hanging them and ensuring they are returned in excellent condition. Before performances, there will be uniform inspection to ensure all members meet the appropriate dress code. **If they do not, they will not be able to perform.**

Each band member receives one band-issued T-shirt designed with the marching band logo, commonly referred to as the "show shirt." These T-shirts are worn as part of the uniform. If lost, students will have to purchase an additional shirt.

Auxiliary members are also required to wear their adequate Band shirt, uniforms and shoes.

Proper attire is **required** at **ALL** Marching and Concert Band performances.

In addition to proper uniform standards, you must:

- Practice proper hygiene
- No jewelry or hair coverings (durags, bandanas, skin piercings, etc.)
- Hair must be natural colored.
- If hair touches the shoulders, it must be tucked inside the shako or in a bun
- If makeup is worn, it must be natural colors (except Auxiliary)
- Males must be clean-shaved
- Females: Must have Black Dress Shoes (for concert season) (NO Sneakers, Sandals or Crocs)
- Males: Must have a long sleeve white **and** black button-up shirt (for concert season)
- **ALL STUDENTS**: ALWAYS have your Band T-shirt, Long Black Socks, Proper Shoes, and Assigned Uniform

Competitions, Festivals, and Trips

Report time for all competitions and trips will be posted in the Band Room and on the Band Website/Social Media Platforms as soon as they become available. **BE ON TIME.**

As all competitions and trips differ, every member must always pay attention to the Band Director and Drum Major(s). Members need to be flexible and be able to do things on a moment's notice without comment. The complete uniform assigned is to be worn in public. You are representing Kathleen High School and The Pride of Kathleen Band. Members are expected to follow uniform and code of conduct rules while on trips. On overnight trips, members may not leave their rooms after the designated curfew assigned by the Band Director.

Electronics are not permitted on buses without headphones.

There will be a male and female bus. Roll will be checked on each bus before departures.

Any member who needs to depart from a performance with his/her parent or guardian prior to the end of the event must submit a written/emailed request from his/her parent/guardian directly to Mr. Miller 24 hours **before** the event. The parent or guardian must be present when the member is picked up.

Pride of Kathleen members will receive an itinerary of activities before all trips. Members are responsible for informing their parents or guardians of this itinerary. Dates and times will also be available on the calendar.

Conduct of The Pride of Kathleen members in public venues should be subdued and courteous. Chaperones and Officers will be treated with respect. After returning to the school, members will put away their uniforms properly and return them to the uniform room. The members must return all instruments and equipment to the proper storage place before dismissal. Dismissal is done at the instruction of the Band Director.

Behavior and Manners!

The Pride of Kathleen's reputation has always set us apart from other band programs because of our well-behaved students. We constantly set the standard of acting professionally and conducting ourselves with excellence, manners, respect, and PRIDE for ourselves and others.

Talking is asked to be kept to a minimum while always having focus and attentiveness to ensure maximum productivity for every event. With over 80+ people on one field or on a trip, efficiency and safety is essential to get as much done as possible. Attention to the Band Director and Staff ensures things will run smoothly.

Beginning Band

The Beginning Band consists mainly of freshmen and students still adjusting to their respective instruments. This class provides basic instruction in the fundamental techniques, scales, rhythms, and literature of music. The Beginning Band performs in concerts throughout the year. Personal Practice is expected.

Concert Band

The Concert Band consists of students mastering the rhythms and techniques they have learned within their first or second year of band. The class teaches moderate musical methods, scales, and literature. The Concert Band performs in yearly concerts, including the FBA Music Performance Assessment (MPA). Personal Practice is expected.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band consists mainly of upperclassmen and members who are the most skilled in the band program. The class teaches advanced musical techniques, scales, and literature. The Symphonic Band performs in concerts annually and FBA Music Performance Assessment (MPA). Most Symphonic Band members will perform in various ensembles such as Solo & Ensemble, All-County, and All-State. Personal practice is expected.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band comprises a small ensemble of students who perform Blues and Jazz music at yearly concerts. To be in the Jazz Band, members must audition. Students in the ensemble are exposed to advanced music theory concepts such as improvisation, chord progressions, and the incorporation of the major and minor scales. Jazz Band performs at concerts throughout the year and FBA District Jazz Music Performance Assessment (MPA). Personal practice is expected.

Color Guard/Dance (Eurhythmics)

The Inferno Color Guard and The Embers Baton/Drill Team are integral to The Pride of Kathleen Band Program. Both groups also have a **FULL-YEAR commitment** as members. Both teams utilize flags, rifles, batons, and various props to create an amazing visual impact for the band performance. They will separate from the band after marching season and perform independently at competitions, concerts, various parades, and many more opportunities within the community. Personal practice is expected.

Percussion Ensemble

The Percussion Ensemble is composed of student percussionists who help keep the tempo and express rhythms with the band. During Marching season, they will emphasize our Drumline. Then, during concert season, they focus on literature ranging from MPA music for the concert bands to percussion ensemble music, where students will work on Mallet and Multi-percussion techniques created for percussionists. Personal practice is expected.

Obligations

The KHSBBA handles all funds for The Pride of Kathleen Band Program. They are willing to work out an agreeable payment schedule for any family that needs it. Please contact the KHSBBA Treasurer or the Band Director for further details.

Every student of The Pride of Kathleen Band has financial responsibilities to ensure they have the necessary things to be successful throughout the year. Any student on the obligation list after the set deadline will be placed on the obligation list.

This obligation list is a financial list of cumulative unpaid fees over the course of the 4 years the student is at KHS. If these fees are NOT paid, the student may not be able to participate in other extracurricular activities. Some include school dances, homecoming, prom and grad bash. Any senior with remaining balances after May 1st can walk at graduation, but they will not receive their diploma or official transcripts until that balance is paid in full.

P.R.I.D.E

Perseverance **R**espect **I**ntegrity **D**iscipline **E**xcellence

All Pride of Kathleen Band members must always follow all policies and procedures of the Student Code of Conduct and The Pride of Kathleen Handbook, with no exceptions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why so many rehearsals?

The Pride of Kathleen has always maintained a high level of excellence. Perfect practice makes perfect performances. The instructors strive to make each performance better, and to better educate students and promote musical growth.

Why do I have to pay money?

The Pride of Kathleen Band Program has operating costs, such as District Fees, staff, bus rentals, instrument repair, and many other expenses. Band dues help offset this cost. Much of the money does return to the band student in either better equipment for use or instructors who will further the student's growth.

Why do I have to be at every practice?

Things are always being changed and adjusted. One person may not seem like much, but it affects the entire Band Program in terms of drill, spacing and musical balance. Being absent hurts the Pride of Kathleen, and may risk not being able to perform, and receiving a zero for not being at practice. If a student must be absent or leave practice early, they **must** have written documentation from the parent/guardian of a valid reason for their absence or leaving early. Documentation needs to be given to the Director of Bands.

What if I have problems paying band dues?

The KHSBBA is always willing to work to make mutually agreeable payment schedules. They have created a payment plan, if needed. Also, there are many volunteer opportunities that can bring a credit to your band account, including working concessions. Speak to the KHSBBA Treasurer for more information.

Who should I contact if my parents want to chaperone?

Please contact a KHSBBA Board Member. You can also sign up to volunteer on the khsband.org website. Click on VOLUNTEERS and sign up where there is space available. Your parent must have a Polk County Volunteer form on file to chaperone.

How long do football games last?

Every game is different. An approximate return time will always be posted for every game and competition in the Band Room. Most home games are over by 10:30PM.

What if I can't get a ride to/from practice, game, or performance?

There are always upperclassmen that are willing to give rides, especially if substantial notice is given. If you need rides to every practice, consider trying to find someone who lives near you who can carpool with you.

What does P.R.I.D.E mean?

Perseverance **R**espect **I**ntegrity **D**iscipline **E**xcellence.

Which means as a student within the program it is your obligation to uphold these standards for yourself, each other and the band program daily so collectively the band program will be Superior. Exhibiting the enthusiasm and respect you have for wanting to be a part of this program is the utmost gratitude to always have. You are all one band family and that will show in the way you exhibit P.R.I.D.E within the band program everyday.

What is the best way to contact Mr. Miller?

To contact Mr. Miller his office phone is 863-499-2655 ext. 521. If he does not answer, please leave a voicemail or email him Anithio.miller@polk-fl.net

The Alma Mater

So proud we stand, so
firm so true
Our loyalty we pledge to
you.
In this great land where
men are free.
Where knowledge gives
us liberty,
You, Alma mater are
our destiny.
Oh banner wave in red
and white,
Our symbol and guiding
light.
Through all the years so
proudly may you stand,
Hail, Kathleen,
Kathleen, Kathleen!

2024-2025 Band Handbook Acknowledgement form

Students and Parents must read through this handbook, sign the bottom acknowledging their understanding and agreement of the above procedures and policies. Please refer to the Band Director when questions arise on items which are not covered by this syllabus. Detach this page and return to Mr. Miller for a grade by Friday, August 23rd, 2024.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Name Printed: _____

Period: _____