

# Band Handbook

2009-2010

St. Kilian School  
Band Department Room 306  
245 High St.  
Hartford, WI 53027  
262-673-3081 x 303

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## St. Kilian School Band Department Philosophy

The instrumental band program at St. Kilian School is designed to serve the special needs of middle school musicians. It is our goal to foster listening skills, positive attitudes, self-reliance and a spirit of cooperation. Band members develop coordination along with a life-long appreciation of music. Our young musicians develop social skills and the ability to work with others. Performances help build self-confidence and a sense of accomplishment.

Band is an elective curricular subject at St. Kilian School. Joining the band program indicates a willingness to practice at home and attend all lessons and rehearsals. Practicing at home on a regular basis is the only way to master playing techniques which help you to advance to more challenging music. St. Kilian band members make a commitment to stay in the band program for the entire school year.

There are no benchwarmers in band. Each member's reliability, teamwork and attention to the director contribute to the success of the band. The only way to improve your playing and the sound of our band is to practice on a regular basis. The better you play, the more fun it will be.

## Student Responsibilities

1. On band days, all instruments and music are to be placed in the hall or in assigned lockers outside the band room. On non-band days, instruments and music go home so that students can practice.
2. Attendance is required at all scheduled lessons, rehearsals and concerts. Forgetting your instrument is no excuse to miss out on learning. All can benefit by listening and watching.
3. Grades will be earned according to the included Grade Rubric.
4. Always bring a pencil to band. You will use it often. Make sure your name is on your instrument and folder.
5. Be prompt for rehearsal. If you have a conflict, you must speak with the director.
6. No playing or talking while the director is on the podium.
7. When the director's arms are up, instruments should be in playing position and ready to go.
8. Try and look at the conductor at least once per measure. Position stands high enough to see both the director and the music.
9. Take care of your instrument. Oil your valves; swab out your mouthpiece and take off the reed each time you are through playing. Brass players should wash your instrument at the end of each semester. We have brushes and tools at school that you can use.
10. No one is to use anyone else's instrument.
11. Always keep your instrument in its case when not in use.
12. Mark all concert dates on your family calendar. Notify the director in writing as soon as possible if you have a conflict. Missed concerts will affect your grade, whatever the reason.
13. Be responsible and give your parents all the notes from your director.

14. Be kind to your classmates as they work through difficult new material. We all want patience and understanding.
15. Cooperation and good manners are always appreciated.
16. If you have any ideas, questions or concerns speak to the director immediately.

This is not just the St. Kilian school band or the director's band – this is YOUR band. Take ownership in it and make it the best band it can be!

## Parent Responsibilities

1. Maintenance
  - a. Keep your child's instruments in proper working condition. If your child complains that a pad is loose, their valves are stuck, they can't find their ligature, etc., go to music repair shop right away and get it fixed or tell Ms. Falk
  - b. Just like getting quarterly oil changes for preventative car maintenance, instruments need routine maintenance to ensure that they remain in good working condition. Encourage your child to oil their valves every week, and to give brass instruments a bath once a semester.
2. Encourage them in everything they do. They need to be encouraged to practice, to do well at lessons and rehearsals, and to have a good concert. A little encouragement from you will help them more than you realize in becoming better musicians.
3. Be patient. Whether your child is just starting band or is a three year veteran, your child may not sound like a professional. Becoming a good musician takes time and everyone, even the professionals, start at the beginning. A parent's support and encouragement breeds musical success.
4. Be involved. If the director needs parental involvement for a situation, volunteer yourself to help out. What better way is there to show support for your child's interest than by being a part of it all! Thank you to the many of you that have already signed up to help.

## Purchasing and Renting Instruments

There are several music stores in the area from which you may rent or purchase instruments. Please speak with the director if you need help in this area – a costly mistake can be easily avoided. Some repair shops will not fix inferior brands. Solid brands can last for decades. Good instruments hold their value well.

## Grades

The included rubric outlines the grading system. Preparation is the key to getting good grades in band.

## Concert Dress

Girls: Top: Solid white shirt (short or long sleeve but NO sleeveless)

Bottom: Black skirt below the knee with pantyhose and black dress shoes OR black slacks with black socks and black shoes.

Boys: Top: Solid white button down shirt (NO polo shirts) with a tie.

Bottom: Black slacks with black socks and black shoes (NO tennis shoes)

## Band Fundraisers

The magazine fundraiser in fall and the Pie and Custard Social in spring cover the miscellaneous costs of the band department such as supplying oil, reeds, lesson books, new music, etc. Donations are always welcome.

## Tuition and fees

The 2009-2010 cost for band tuition is \$275. Beginning Band students pay half for the first semester, and the remainder for the rest of the school year.

Wind players are required to provide their own instruments, unless school-owned instruments are available for rental, at the cost of \$45 for the school year. The band will provide one box of reeds to single reed players, and 10 reeds to oboe players, after which the student will provide their own reeds for the remainder of the year. Arrangements may be made with the director to keep the instrument over the summer. Percussionists provide their own snare sticks and rubber mallets.

Lesson books and music used for band are provided by the band at no extra cost. Unreturned books and music will be charged to the student's tuition account.

## My Door is Always Open

Parent and students: feel free to stop by my classroom or call me with any questions.

Please return the lower portion of this page to the director.

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Band Handbook review form  
falkd@archmil.org

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Questions? Call Ms. Falk x303 or contact

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and discussed the handbook with my child.

Parent/guardian sign \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the director to call me to discuss \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to volunteer for \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your children*