

Kefer Crossing Middle School
281-577-8840 ext.0429

COUGAR BAND

Syllabus 2009-2010



Mrs. Dale Rushing/ Director
drushing@newcaneyisd.org

Kefer Crossing
Cougar Band

This syllabus is designed to help the band student and the band parent understand the Keefer Crossing band program. Hopefully, it will answer any questions you may have now and be a reference for questions in the future.

We are fortunate to have parents, administrators, faculty, staff, and school board members who are dedicated to a quality band program. We look forward to having you and your child as a part of the New Caney Spirit Band Program.

Please print Page 7&8, keep the calendar for your convenience and send the signature letter back to school.



A well-rounded education is enhanced by one of the most basic of all studies...the study of **music**. Music teaches **discipline** and **self-confidence**. Music gives each student the feeling of **pride** and **accomplishment**. Playing in the band teaches students the importance of working with others and helps them to develop **social skills** they will use all their lives. Band instills **values: responsibility, dedication, cooperation, and commitment** to excellence. Even though not all band students become great musicians, each student will be affected socially, physically, intellectually, and emotionally. All of these qualities are important elements of a quality organization. It is the goal of the New Caney Band Directors to produce and maintain outstanding, quality musicians.

GOALS AND GRADING (these are in compliance with TEKS objectives and NCISD Grading procedures)

The Student will be able to:

- Understand musical terms
- Read simple rhythms
- Identify and play pitches and notation
- Perform in an ensemble
- Interact in a large group discipline
- Interact socially with peers
- Accept and utilize constructive criticism

GRADES: All grades are based on TEKS objectives. This includes concert attendance.

Home work: 10%

Practice time log: Students are expected to keep a record of their practice each week in their *Planner* in a designated place. Parent signature on the Saturday square each week.

- Write down the minutes each day.
- Add the total for the week
- A parent must sign the log for a grade.

140 minutes+ =100 / 130-139 =90 / 100-129=80/ 100 - =70

- Other assignments will be given to complete at home as well.
Composer info, counting pages, vocabulary, etc...

Late Work: please refer to district policy.

Taking instrument home: all students must take instruments home to practice

TESTS: 50%

- Tests consist of passing off all 12 scales throughout the year, intonation chart **each six weeks**, and playing off music passages.

They will also play segments of the music that we are working at the time.

- **It is required of all students, 7th, and 8th grade to attend all performances. (Graded as a test/ attendance=100) including sporting events. Performance is part of the TEKS objectives. Therefore, students must attend to receive credit for mastering this objective. If a student is unable to attend for some unforeseen reason, he/she must make up the grade by performing in class.**
- Athletes who are involved in the event the band is playing at are not required to play and will not be penalized. However, this applies to school related events only. A band concert is a graded performance which a TEKS objective.
- **PARTICIPATION – 40%:** This is a daily grade and includes having all supplies in class: instrument, pencil, methods book, notebook, music, Planners and taking an active part in the class.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to participate in extra activities, such as Performing at sporting events and UIL competitions, the student must be passing ALL classes. If failing, a student's grade will be checked at progress report time. If the student is passing ALL classes at that time, he/she will become eligible again after the required time of ineligibility.

(This is a state law)

BANDS:

- Concert band - consist of 7th and eighth graders. They are placed by audition. They will play at any sporting event we participate in. (If they are in athletics and are playing in the event the band participates at, they are not required to participate with the band.) They can compete in all Region and Solo and Ensemble competitions. It will be decided as they progress whether or not they will compete at Concert and Sight-reading competition in the spring. They will perform at 2 formal concerts, one in the winter and one in the spring.
- Symphonic band - consist of 7th and 8th graders. They are placed by audition. They will play at any sporting event we participate in. (If they are in athletics and are playing in the event the band participates at, they are not required to participate with the band.) They are encouraged to compete in all region and solo and ensemble competitions. They will perform at concert and sight-reading competition in the spring. They will perform at least 3 formal concerts, one in the winter and two in spring. On occasion, a place of business or the school will request the performance of one of the bands. The performance will then be added to the calendar. (example... book fair family night)
- There will be a beginner band class for 7th and 8th graders who wish to be in band. At concert time they will either perform as their own group or with the concert band depending on their progress.

Conduct Expectations

1. **Respect** self, others, and their instruments
2. **Be prepared** (always have supplies at your seat)
3. Maintain appropriate class room behavior
4. **Follow all school rules!**
5. Get water and go to the rest-room **BEFORE BAND**

Consequences

- 1st offence - verbal warning
- 2nd offence - Parent Contact
- 3rd offence - Detention
- 4th offence - office referral

Care for YOUR band hall

1. NO FOOD, DRINK, OR GUM
2. DO NOT LEAN ON THE STAND OR USE IT AS A DESK
3. DO NOT WRITE ON THE STANDS OR CHAIRS
4. **ONLY BAND STUDENTS IN THE BAND HALL**

Instruments

We have a limited amount of school instruments for the students to use. The tuba, baritone, and French horn are checked out when the student is ready (as decided by the director) then returned the last week of school. The student will supply all other instruments. **Students playing school owned instruments are responsible for any damage done to it while it is checked out in their name. Any preexisting problems are recorded at the time the horn is checked out.**

Band council

Student leaders within the band nominated and voted upon by the band. These students will meet as needed to discuss ways to make our program a success socially. (7th and 8th grade)

Fundraising

Fundraising is done to help supply the band with items that are not included in the budget. The band is allowed to have 2 fundraisers a year. The first fundraiser starts soon after school has begun. *Your child is not required to participate in the fundraisers.* The fundraisers in the past have paid for the shirts, our banner, a copy machine, and sound equipment for the cougar band, as well as tux pants for the boys and formals for the girls, and cummerbunds and bow ties. We have also used the funds to help pay for the band to go to a music festival at Astroworld and Fiesta Texas.

Uniform: This is formal attire, please respect it as such.

These uniforms will be worn at all formal concerts.

Concert Band students will wear **BLACK** dress pants or skirt (long), **black shoes and socks**, A **WHITE TUX** shirt.

Symphonic band - The band has tuxedo pants for the boys and formals for the girls. It is the responsibility of the student to return these at the end of the year after the final concert, dry-cleaned. (**Please do not attempt to iron these, as they will be ruined.**) We will have a day that they will try these on and we will hem them (please do not cut the material to fix a hem) **Boys MUST supply their tuxedo shirt, black dress shoes and socks. Girls will wear black dress shoes as well. Black flip-flops or sandals are NOT acceptable. The school will supply the bow tie and cummerbund.**

BAND BOOSTERS

A parent organization formed to support both students and directors in the band program. They meet **every first Tuesday of each month**. Dues are \$3.00 each or \$5.00 per family. Parents, grandparents as well as uncles and aunts are invited to join.

Volunteers are needed to help work at the concession stand for **ALL** home-sporting events. They also make baskets to be raffled off at the winter concert. The money is used for your children including at least 4 - \$200.00 scholarships per grade.

Keefers Crossing Middle School Bands

20350 fm1485, New Caney Texas- 281 577-8840

Dale Rushing Director

KMS Band Syllabus /calendar signature page

We, the undersigned, have read and agree to the policies in the Keefer Crossing Middle School Band Syllabus for 2009-2010. In addition, we have received the band calendar for 2009-2010 and understand that all performances are required as stated in the band Syllabus.

Student's name (print) _____

Student's signature _____ Date _____

Parent's
Signature _____

Parent's email _____
phone number _____

_____ *I am interested in helping with the Band booster club.*

ex. helping with uniforms, collecting fundraiser money, working concession stand, chaperoning etc....

_____ *I can not volunteer my time however will gladly support my child with encouragement and praise.*

KCMS COUGAR BAND CALENDAR 09/10

August

- 11-14 Summer Band practice 9-12.
- 24 First day of School
- 27 Beginner band instrument drive at the 6th grade campus
- 28 Fund-raiser begins.

September

- 8 Booster meeting 7 p.m. Band hall
- 9 All fund-raiser orders due.
- 18 Back to school fun (2:30-5:30)
- 22 pep rally foot ball (during school)

October

- 6 Booster Meeting 7pm Band Hall
- 15 pep rally (volleyball)During school
- 9 8th grade band students at the Friday night High school football game

November

- 3 Performance at KCMS vs. WO.
- 3 Booster meeting 7 pm band hall
- 7 Region auditions
- 12 pep rally (basketball)
- 14 Region clinic and concert (for those who make Region band on the 7th)

December

- 1 Booster meeting 7pm Band hall
- 14 Winter Concert
- 18 early release/ winter break- Jan. 5

January

- 12 Booster meeting* notice this is *NOT* the first Tuesday
- 25 Clinician 3:00-5:30

February

- 2 Booster meeting
- 6 Solo and Ensemble Competition (at Keefer)
- (tba) Fund Raiser #2

March

- 2 Booster meeting
- 9 Clinician (time tba)
- 15-19 Spring Break
- 25 Pre UIL concert
- 30,31 UIL Concert & Sight-reading competition

April

- 6 Booster meeting

May

- 4 Booster meeting
- 5 scholarship forms go home
- 8 Competition trip (Fiesta Texas, San Antonio/ one day trip)
- 14 scholarship form due
- 24 Spring concert

June

- 4 Last day!!! early release

***Dates and Locations on all the above events are subject to change. Students will be informed of changes as soon as they occur. Other dates may be added as some are still pending.**

