

Waterford Kettering High School BANDS Questions & Answers

What concert bands can I be involved with at Kettering as an incoming freshman?

All incoming freshmen band students should enroll in **Concert Band 2 or Concert Band 3** at Kettering. A small number of students may qualify for the Kettering's top band (The Wind Ensemble—Concert Band 1), but adjustments to this won't be made until later this spring/early summer. Students receive high school credit for concert bands—1/2 credit per semester—1 full credit for the year. ***A letter is being sent this week/weekend stating which band you are placed in for next year.*** This might be adjusted by your WK counselor to accommodate another class you want or need in your schedule.

What about jazz band?

If you are interested in being in a jazz band, freshmen can take Jazz Band 2 (Course #1171). Standard jazz band instrument ONLY are used in our jazz bands (trumpet, trombone, saxophone, drums, piano, bass, and guitar). Jazz band meets ZERO HOUR, which is *before* school starts. Jazz Band 2 meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 AM to 7:15 AM (school starts at 7:25). Students will need to arrange for their own rides to the high school to participate in jazz band. Students DO receive high school credit for jazz band: 1/2 credit per semester—1 credit for the year. **Auditions for the jazz bands occur during the first 2-3 weeks of class in the fall. Student schedules can be adjusted at that time, so parents and students should not be concerned about being registered at this time for jazz band class. IF YOU WANT TO INCLUDE JAZZ BAND IN YOUR SCHEDULE, ENROLL IN JAZZ BAND 2.**

And what about marching band?

All freshmen band students are encouraged to be in the Marching Band, but they are not required to do so to be in a Band class at Kettering. Marching Band is not a class (for credit), but is extracurricular; students will need to arrange their schedules to attend camps, after-school rehearsals, festival performances, and football games. Note: If you DO want to be in Marching Band or a jazz band, you must also be enrolled in a concert band class during the school day. The exception to this is Color Guard students, who are not required to be in a daytime band class. Additional information is available on the band web site.

Are there auditions to get into these groups?

As long as you have been a band member at the middle school, there is no audition requirement to be in Concert Band, Jazz Band or Marching Band, but Mr. Adkins will be hearing each student play at their middle school so they can be placed in the appropriate concert band for their skill level next year.

Is marching band camp required, and when is it?

Remember, participation in the marching band is VOLUNTARY...you do NOT have to be in the marching band to be able to participate in the Kettering Bands. We hope you **WILL** choose to march, though, as it is a great experience and a lot of fun! The Kettering Marching Captains have both a "Pre-Camp" and a "Band Camp." The Pre-Camp will be Monday, July 19th through Friday, July 23rd. The Pre-Camp is held at Kettering from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM each night (except the first night, which will be from 2:00-9:00 (dinner provided that night). The Band Camp will run from Sunday, July 25th through Saturday, July 31st. The camp is in Comstock Park, MI (just north of Grand Rapids). More information about Marching Band and the camps will be mailed soon and will also be posted on the band's web site.

IMPORTANT! Our marching band drills are custom-created and quite expensive. Therefore, we must know before the school year is out who will be marching FOR SURE. For this reason, you must register for marching band and leave a \$100 deposit by Tuesday, June 1st to save your spot with the Marching Captains. The registration form to confirm your membership will be mailed to you soon.

Are there other incentives for being involved with the bands at Kettering?

Yes, there are many incentives. In addition to the terrific opportunity to play with an outstanding band and being associated with a group of great kids, band members can receive points in the "Kettering Band Awards Program." Students will accumulate points during their years in the Kettering Bands that can be used toward various awards (including "WK" band letter, pins, trophy, gold neck chains, etc.). Marching Band participation gives students one of the largest amounts of award points. All awards are presented at the annual Spring Band Awards Banquet in June.