

FUTURE BEGINNER BAND PARENT MEETING  
4/21/21; 5pm-6pm  
SCRIPT

Good Afternoon everyone and welcome to our Future Beginner Band Parent meeting. Just a few items before we begin: This meeting is being recorded and will be posted at [knightband.com](http://knightband.com) starting tomorrow, just in case you need to review any of the information. Second, our settings are set so that everyone's microphone will remain muted and chat will be disabled until the question and answer session at the end of our discussion. If you come up with a question we encourage you to write the question down somewhere else or remember it until the end. You can always email any questions to [band.klms@gmail.com](mailto:band.klms@gmail.com). You are welcome to turn your camera on though it is not required.

Now for introductions. My name is Noel Esquivel or you can call me Mr. E. and I am one of the associate band directors. I am completing my 11th year of teaching and 10 of them have been here at KLMS. For the beginner band classes I am responsible for the beginner clarinet, oboe, and bassoon classes.

Mrs. Mixon...My name is Cynthia Mixon. I am the director of bands for Kelly Lane Middle School. I am completing my 28th year of teaching. 25 have been for Pflugerville ISD. I started at Park Crest MS and then opened Kelly Lane in 2006. For the beginner classes, I teach the flutes, saxophones, tubas, and euphoniums. When I'm not teaching, I love to play with my cats and run marathons

Mr. Sneed...Good afternoon everyone. My name is Michael Sneed and I am one of the associate band directors here at Kelly Lane Middle School. This will be my 14th year of teaching band and My 5th year at KLMS. My primary instrument is the French Horn. I teach the beginner french horns, trumpets, trombones, and the 7th and 8th grade symphonic winds. When I'm not practicing or teaching kids, I enjoy playing with my dogs, golf, building things, and BBQ! I'm a big Saint's fan so WHO DAT! Welcome to the KLMS band. Hope you have a great year!

Mr. Zamora... Good afternoon everyone. My name is Nathan Zamora and I am the Percussion Director for Hendrickson HS and Kelly Lane MS. This upcoming year will be my third year in the vertical alignment. My primary instrument is percussion. Outside of HHS/KLMS I am a Front Ensemble Instructor for the group Rhythmic Force and I also like to Foot Golf in my free time. I hope everyone is excited to begin their journey in band.

We want to start today's discussion with a timeline or order of events so that you know what to expect as we end this school year and begin again in August. Most of the items I'm going to list will have more details as we progress through the meeting. First, in April, and we are doing this now is to communicate how instrument placement and class scheduling will work.

In May we will hold percussion auditions (which are not required). During this month, based on your responses to the google form that will be completed at the end of this meeting, our counselors will start building your child's daily class schedule for next year. In June, students that made it into the percussion class will be notified. Not much else happens in June or July, except for a few emails we will send as we draw closer to the beginning of the school year.

In August, we start school on Thursday, August 12, so those first two days will be spent discussing the instrument tryout process to your band student. The official 21-22 Band calendar will be distributed those first two days so you can incorporate those dates in your family calendar. During the week of 8/23 to 8/27, we will audition students to see which instrument they will be most successful playing. The week after, we will notify parents/guardians about the child's instrument placement and there will be a Beginning of the Year meeting to discuss how we will move forward and how to get instruments/accessories. At that meeting we will have representatives from local music stores to answer any questions about renting or purchasing instruments and accessories. When your student knows what they will play we will give them an instrument supply list, kind of like a school supply list you get for the school year.. At the beginning of September, instruments/accessories will arrive and the fun will begin! Next we will have Mrs. Mixon explain how the instrument placement will work.

Due to the COVID restrictions and for the overall safety of students and directors, we will be trying a completely new system to help students find their perfect instrument this year. Normally, your child would have already tried different instruments, and would know what they will be playing next year.

This year, we will be letting the students try the instruments during class when school starts next year. In order to keep our amazing counselors happy (and to keep the number of schedule changes to a minimum) we will be asking you to watch the videos (if you haven't already) and narrow your choices down to one class period.

To help accommodate our counselors, students will choose their favourite instruments based on the videos and perhaps some extra googling. The instruments will be grouped by 'class period.' This way, if they try one and are unsuccessful, they have options within that class period.

At the conclusion of this meeting, we will paste the link to the google form in the chat so you can choose your child's 'track' for next year. Notice that some of the instruments are all caps and bold.

I would like to give a brief discussion on the different categories of instruments. I.e. 'The Big 4' and 'Auxiliary' instruments.

I like to use the analogy of a chocolate chip cookie recipe. The sugar, chocolate chips, flour, and eggs are what we like to call the 'Big Four'

flute,

clarinet,  
trumpet  
and trombone)

The 'Auxiliary' instruments are the salt. They are very important to the recipe, but too much and it will be ruined.

Oboe  
Bassoon  
french horn  
Saxophone  
tuba  
Euphonium (baby tuba)

The Knight Band program's history of success is in part due to the fact that we are very cognizant of the balance of each band. There is a formula as to how many of each instrument creates the perfect blend and balance within the ensemble.

That being said, Students that choose one of the big four (and are successful making a sound on it), will have the option to choose that instrument. Students that choose one of the auxiliary instruments, will be 'auditioned' based on the aptitudes necessary for that particular instrument. For example, the French Horn requires that the student have the ability to 'match pitch' (meaning we sing or play a tone and they can match that tone by either singing or buzzing on the mouthpiece or instrument.)

So to recap, the instruments are grouped so that there is at least one Big Four in each class period. If your child wants to play the Trumpet, they will play the trumpet, however, if they want to play the Saxophone or Bassoon and are not placed on those instruments, their option for that class period would be to play the Clarinet.

The google form that you will be asked to fill out at the end of this meeting, will ask you to choose one of these class periods.

Some parents and students wonder what kind of a time commitment band is. To help answer that question, please welcome Mr. Sneed!

Every student is highly encouraged to practice for a minimum of 10 - 20 minutes a day. Repetition in band Matters and is essential to your child's success.

Before our winter and spring concerts, we will have a couple of after school rehearsals. During these rehearsals, every student will practice their parts together for the first time. These rehearsals are required to ensure a successful concert.

We will have 3, 2-hour after school rehearsals for the winter concert  
And 2, 2-hour after school rehearsals for the spring concert

Our concerts are the equivalent to a championship game or a superbowl. They only happen a couple of times a year. A concert performance is the culmination of all of the hard work during the school year and individual practicing. Our spring and winter concerts are required. Being in the KNIGHT band is all about hard work and having fun. Each year we like to celebrate their success by going on a spring performance trip. During these trips your child will ride a chartered bus, attend an amusement park, and compete with their band in a music competition. There is a fee assessed with these trips. We have FUND-raisers to help offset the cost of the trip. Passing your classes and demonstrating outstanding good classroom behavior is also required prior to attending our spring trips.

Our beginner bands are undefeated at the Schlitterbahn Music Festival every year. No Pressure. Students usually say this is the **best** part of their middle school year, attending the spring band trip. Starting now, help us hold your child accountable with practicing, behavior, and keeping their school grades up.

We also have lots of optional fun throughout the year with movie and popcorn parties as incentives for practicing.

Back to Mrs. Mixon

We will have a meeting soon after the students have been placed on their instruments to discuss cost and how to acquire the supplies. But we would like to give you a preview. At this point, we would like to let one of our local vendors explain part of this process. I would like to introduce Mr. VanZandt from Music and Arts.

MR. VAN ZANDT SPOKE HERE, NOT SCRIPTED

Percussion will be a little different. We will hold our audition in May. Percussion is definitely a very popular instrument of choice and very competitive. Just like anything else we can only select a specific number of percussionists. Percussion involves a WIDE range of instruments from snare to keyboards, triangle, timpani and much more. It is highly recommended that students have piano experience but it is not necessary. The audition will be via zoom and In the audition I will be looking for the ability to keep a steady beat since percussion is very rhythmic, basic independence between limbs, and some note identification. Students will need an open spaced area and chair when they begin their audition. They will also need a metronome which can used through the google browser

Before we wrap there is one action item that we ask you to complete as soon as possible, the sooner the better, especially if you can complete it today. In the chat we are adding a google form link for you to review and submit. This form is important because it will give the band directors some insight as to which instrument your child would like to play next year, and importantly put your student in the correct band class for their counselor to build their schedule. The form will also ask if your child would like to audition for percussion in May. We will notify only those interested in percussion when the audition will take place. If you have no further questions you can complete the google form in the chat and sign off. If you do have questions we are unlocking the chat to just the co-hosts of the meeting and you can ask any one of us any questions you may have.