



# Keller High School Band 2010

*2006 & 2008 5A UIL State Marching Band Participant  
2000 TMEA 4A State Honor Band • 1999 4A UIL State Marching Band Runner-Up*

*Dear Incoming Freshman and New Transfers,*

We're glad that you are considering membership in one of the best bands in the state – **The Keller High School Band!** The benefits to staying in band are many: establishing & building friendships over your high school career (a big plus in a school with more than 3,000 students), and developing self-discipline, leadership, and team-building skills.

Freshmen can expect a big change when they begin high school. Parents may have taken a more active role in the past – keeping tabs on homework, due dates, etc. – made easier by the fact that many of your classmates had the exact same schedule. In high school, you likely won't have the same schedule as anyone else you know. This increased personal responsibility means that students will be taking a more active role in their school assignments. We realize that you have many questions about participating in this organization, particularly regarding your valuable resources of time and money.

**How much time is involved?** *As you can imagine, there is a lot of work required to develop a marching show that can compete with Class 5A's other highly-skilled bands. (Consistently, our region has produced bands that advance to finalist competition at the state level). We represent our school at all home & away football games, as well as in football playoff season, and we march in competition in at least 4 contests during the month of October. Students must maintain good grades, as UIL regulations restrict participation by students failing one or more classes. We realize that freshmen have not had an opportunity to work on marching skills at the middle-school level, and it is unfair to expect them to learn so much in the short time between the start of school and the first contest in October. With that in mind, we have developed two marching band groups – the Junior Varsity Band, and the Varsity Band.*

*The **Junior Varsity Band**, which usually consists of under-classmen, marches with the Varsity Band at all football games. They get more one-on-one attention in rehearsals to develop marching skills, learn show tunes played for the Indianettes, “stand tunes” played in the stands during the games, and learn a marching tune that they perform with the Varsity Band at football game half-times. (When the two groups come together they become the **Pride of Keller Marching Band**). The Junior Varsity usually rehearses 3 hours per week outside of the school day in either the morning or after school hours. The JV Band also reports early on football game nights when the season begins in September.*

*The **Varsity Band**, which usually consists of upper-classmen, participates in all the activities mentioned above, as well as the marching competitions held in October and November. Their rehearsal schedule is more rigorous – marching 8 hours per week Monday through Thursday, in addition to Friday (or Saturday) games, and competitions.*

Please plan on attending two important marching band events: The first is the **Keller Indian Band Marching Help Sessions** on May 10<sup>th</sup>, May 17<sup>th</sup> and May 24<sup>th</sup>. The second event will be the **Indian Band Marching Orientation and First Audition Camp** that happens **June 3<sup>rd</sup> through June 5<sup>th</sup>**. These are crucial sessions when you will be introduced to marching, and many things that you will need for Varsity auditions on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Marching rehearsals will resume on **Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>**, which begins the two-week long summer "band camp". This is when incoming freshmen can get on the fast-track to develop their skills – possibly earning a spot in the Varsity Band, and when returning band members polish "rusty" marching techniques. When marching season is done (usually the first of November) after-school rehearsals lessen, and concert season begins. Students will also focus on auditioning for the All-Region Band with the ultimate goal of advancing to Texas All-State Band. Our band has consistently produced several students each year who attain this lofty status. Students may wish to stay after school to work with directors and private-lesson teachers on rehearsing their music.

**What types of bands are offered at Keller High School?** KHS has five concert bands (Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, Concert I, Concert II, and Concert III). As mentioned above, during the fall we have two marching bands (Varsity Band and Junior Varsity Band). We also offer auxiliary groups such as drumline and color guard. The KHS Drumline participates frequently and places at the Lone Star Drumline Contest. In the spring the percussion students switch to a percussion ensemble mode and perform a variety of ensemble pieces for the community. Color Guard performs in the fall with the marching band. In the spring they perform as a separate group called Winter Guard and participate in several NTCA Winter Guard contests. KHS also offers a jazz band that meets after school in the spring semester.

**Why should I take band?** Music is a science. It demands specific and exact acoustics. Music is mathematical. It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper. Music is a foreign language. Most of the terms are in Italian, German or French and the notation is certainly not English – but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. Music is history. Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the country and/or racial feeling. Music is physical education. It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, and facial muscles, while marching band strengthens the entire body. Music develops insight and demands research. Music and band are all of these things, but most of all, music is art. It allows a human being to take all these dry, difficult techniques and use them to create emotion.

**Just how good is the Keller High School Band program?** We have experienced one of our most successful years to date with the band program. The KHS Marching Band earned 4<sup>th</sup> place at the Birdville Marching Festival, Grand Champion at the HEB Marching Festival with numerous Best in Class awards, and 10<sup>th</sup> place out of 50 at the Bands of America Super Regional in the San Antonio Alamodome. The Keller High School Band has established itself as one of the leading 5A bands in Northeast Tarrant County, the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex and the state of Texas.

In the 1999-2000 school year, the Wind Ensemble was named the 4A State Honor Band and performed at the Texas Music Educators Association state convention in San Antonio. The 1999 KHS Marching Band performed at the 4A State Marching Contest at Baylor University, placing first in preliminary competition and second place in finals.

The top four concert bands compete at the UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest, earning consistent superior ratings. Keller was only one of three schools (Keller, Duncanville and Cedar Park) that had 4 bands earn 1<sup>st</sup> divisions and sweepstakes honors in the entire state. The KHS Band program annually has many individuals that qualify for Region, Area and State honors as well as first division medals at Solo and Ensemble events.

**Will band fit in my schedule?** *Yes, especially with increasing electives as you go through high school. Enrollment in band not only satisfies fine arts credits but also satisfies the physical education requirement during marching season. Many students in their senior year are able to meet all graduations requirements, taking four years of band while remaining ranked in the top 10%, or higher, of their class.*

**What happens if I am a volleyball, soccer, football player, etc.?** *Our A/B block schedule has made it easier for students to be involved in athletics and band. If you are an athlete with Keller High School, we will work with you in your attendance at rehearsals and performances with the band and your sport. **We consistently work with the other coaches/sponsors to find compromises when conflicts occur.***

**What about practicing in the heat of summer?** *Safety is our primary concern. We require that all students bring water (at least 2 quarts) to all rehearsals, games and competitions. They should also wear hats, sunscreen, closed-toe shoes, and light-colored clothing to rehearsals. (Students not in compliance will not be permitted to rehearse and will be sent home.) Rehearsals include several breaks for water and rest. When the weather is very hot and/or ozone warnings are issued, outdoor practice is limited or moved indoors.*

**How much money will it cost?** *At the start of school, new KHS Band students will need to make payments, which cover marching shoes, a participation fee, band t-shirts, gloves, marching uniform cleaning, and drinks (supplied after half-time shows and competitions). Thereafter, returning students would pay a lesser amount at the start of the school year, if they do not need new shoes, etc. (These fees are reduced somewhat for families with more than one student in the high school band.) Students playing a school-owned instrument will also pay a yearly fee for instrument usage. Students in Color Guard may have additional fees – contact the Color Guard Coordinator for more information.*

*Students may also choose to participate in other **optional** Band activities. One in particular is very popular – the **Band Trip**. We alternate between in-state and out-of-state destinations every year. This year we are going back to Corpus Christi and last year we went on a cruise to Progresso/Cozumel Mexico!!! Other destinations included New York City, Los Angeles, Orlando, Crested Butte, Corpus Christi, Galveston, San Antonio and Austin. We travel over 4-5 days, sometimes during Spring Break, and the trip usually costs from \$300 to \$1000, depending on the destination and amount of activities included. Trip costs include transportation, hotel stay, some meals and activities, and include our performance at a venue to be determined. Payments are spread out over several months, with the first \$100 non-refundable deposit due in September. Several fundraisers are available throughout the school year to help students defray the cost. The most popular of these is the Passbook fundraiser (coupons to popular restaurants, grocery stores, movies, etc.).*

**When are band tryouts?** *All students who enroll in a band class are members of the KHS marching bands. Tryouts will be held beginning in late April or early May to determine which band class you will be assigned to. Each group meets a different period of the day. More information on tryouts, rehearsal schedules, etc. will be sent to you later this spring.*

**How will I know what is going on??** We recommend the following:

**Students** – Check the white board in the Band Hall! Directors write notes every day detailing the day's and week's events and deadlines. **If there are last-minute changes, these will be noted here.**

**Students** – Check with your Section Leader! You will be given a list at the beginning of the school year with Section Leader contact information. They are a great help if you need a ride to or from band events, or any information about Band.

**Parents** – Join Band Boosters! This is a great group of folks dedicated to supporting our band. They earn money for needed supplies not financed by the school district, provide some of the meals during marching competitions and the Band Trip, and provide support to other parents in the form of car-pooling and information sharing. They generally meet once per month to plan upcoming events, and provide a forum for discussion with the directors about band activities.

**Parents** – Come to “Mini-School” nights at the beginning of each semester. Directors will have handouts including the proposed calendar, information about the Band Trip, and much more. One thing band parents learn early: **Be Flexible.** Sometimes the schedules planned before the beginning of the school year are disrupted by unforeseen events – changes in community & UIL events, in which we participate, weather, school schedule changes, etc.

**Parents & Students** – Make sure your Charms Music information is current through your middle school band. We will be sending out regular email newsletters throughout the school year.

**Everyone** – Check out the Band's website: [www.indianband.org](http://www.indianband.org). It is updated regularly. We also use the [www.charmsmusic.com](http://www.charmsmusic.com) website to communicate student account information, copies of necessary forms and calendar information.

**How do I contact the Band Directors? E-MAIL IS BEST!** These are checked almost daily, and can be responded to during our “down times.” Put “KHS Band Student” in the “subject,” so we can sort it from “spam.” McGahey: [mark.mcgahey@kellerisd.net](mailto:mark.mcgahey@kellerisd.net), Turner: [darla.turner@kellerisd.net](mailto:darla.turner@kellerisd.net), Pickrell: [mike.pickrell@kellerisd.net](mailto:mike.pickrell@kellerisd.net), Chapple: [frank.chapple@kellerisd.net](mailto:frank.chapple@kellerisd.net). If you need to call, you can leave a message on the Band Hall's recorder: 817-744-1610.

We hope this has provided enough information to help you make a clear decision to join the Keller High School Band. Please call or e-mail us with any questions. We are certainly looking forward to getting to know you, and working together to create beautiful music we can share with our community.

Sincerely,

Mark McGahey, Darla Turner, Mike Pickrell & Frank Chapple  
Keller High School Band Directors