

Keene Elementary Band Handbook



*A Resource for
Students and Parents*

Director – Mrs. Kimberly Clark

Email: kclark@sau29.org

Phone: 603-352-8012

Elementary Band Webpage: www.sau29.org/keeneelementaryband298.html

Table of Contents

<i>I. Program Overview.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>II. Responsibilities.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>III. Assessment.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>IV. Important Dates.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>V. Instrument Cleaning.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>VI. Instrument Repairs.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>VII. Instrument Returns.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>VIII. Step up Instruments.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>IX. Private Lessons.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>XI. Music Store Resources.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>XII. Required Materials.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>XIII. Tips for Parents.....</i>	<i>11</i>



Program Overview

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Keene Elementary Band Program is to provide students in the Keene School District with quality instruction on a beginning band instrument. Students will acquire the skills and techniques of playing a band instrument through practice of a varied repertoire of music.

The Elementary Band Program consists of:

- 1. Lessons (small group instruction) ~ provided to every student in the program during school**
- 2. Ensemble (large group instruction) ~ optional after school, but highly recommended**

Band Lessons – Lessons are provided during school to all students enrolled in the band program. Lessons are 30 minutes, once a week in groups of 8 or less. Students will learn the basics of making sound on their instruments, reading music, and playing familiar songs. Students need to know their lesson day and bring their instrument and lesson book on that day each week. Mrs. Clark will get the students from class when it is time for lessons. Even if there is a change in the school schedule (i.e. testing, half day field trip, etc.) still plan to bring your instrument; the band schedule may be altered so lessons can still take place.

Students in the band program will miss some class time during their lesson. It is an important responsibility of band students to make up missed class work.

Advanced Band Ensemble – Any 2nd year band student may participate in Advanced Band (if they have one year of experience on their instrument). It is strongly recommended but not required. Advanced Band will work on ensemble skills and prepare students for middle school band. We will practice and perform fun and challenging music. Advanced Band rehearses on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00pm from October through December, and includes a December concert. Sign up information and a complete schedule are distributed to all 2nd year band students at the beginning of the school year and are also available on the band webpage at www.sau29.org/keeneelementaryband298.html

Keene Elementary Band Ensemble (KEB) – Any 1st or 2nd year band student may participate in KEB. It is strongly recommended but not required. Students learn from high school and middle school mentors in small groups in addition to playing as a large group. KEB will work on ensemble skills and practice fun and exciting music. KEB rehearses on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00pm from January through April, and includes an April concert. Sign up information and a complete schedule are mailed via postal mail and email to all band students in November, and they are also available on the band webpage at www.sau29.org/keeneelementaryband298.html

Summer Band – Any 1st or 2nd year band student may sign up for Summer Band. This ensemble provides a practice and performance opportunity for band students over the summer. Summer Band rehearses Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings for the first 4 weeks after school is out. The concert is usually the 2nd or 3rd week of July. Sign up information is sent home with all band students and emailed to parents in February or March and is also available on the band webpage at www.sau29.org/keeneelementaryband298.html

Responsibilities

Parent Responsibilities:

- Providing an instrument and required materials – see “Required Materials”
- Setting up a practice routine for your child
- Supervising daily practice
- Signing weekly practice record
- Obtaining supplies as needed
- Arranging instrument repairs as needed
- Arranging transportation to evening rehearsals and concerts (if participating)
- Contacting band teacher before withdrawing student from the program

Student Responsibilities:

- Practicing 15 minutes a day, 5 days a week
- Filling out weekly practice record
- Handling instrument carefully
- Knowing your lesson day
- Bringing instrument and book to weekly lessons
- Making up any class work missed during lessons
- Attending rehearsals and concerts (if participating)

Performances:

- December Concert – Advanced Band participants only
- April Concert – KEB participants only
- June School Assembly Concert – all band students perform during school

Practice, Practice, Practice!

- The best indicator for student success is consistent practice
- See “Tips for Beginning Band Parents” for more information on how to help your child practice effectively
- Here is an example of how to fill out the practice record in the front cover of the lesson book. Each week we will fill out the date and assignment in class. Students and parents are responsible for filling out the practice minutes and signature at home. **USE ONLY ONE LINE FOR EACH WEEK, EVEN IF YOUR LESSON IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WEEK.** In other words, you will “wrap” back to the beginning of the line after Sunday. Do not go down to the next line. Write the number of minutes you practiced in the box for each day. A parent should initial each week. Practice records will be checked and graded each week during lessons.

Date	Assignment	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total	Parent Initials
9/20	Practice putting instrument together	20	10		15	15		15	75	KAC

Commitment:

- It is recommended that students commit to studying their instrument through the entire school year. It takes at least this long to gauge the child's success and enjoyment level through the ups and downs of beginning an instrument

Assessment

Every student in the band program receives two progress reports: one in December and one in June. They will come home with your child's report card. Band progress reports provide a rubric for the following categories:

- Posture and Instrument Position
- Embouchure (lip position)/Stick technique (percussion)
- Rhythm and Articulation
- Pitch and Tone
- Reading Music
- Personal and Social Growth Standards
- Learning Expectation Standards

Important Dates

Tuesday, September 20th ~ Band Rental Night and Meeting 6:30pm, Jonathan Daniels gym

Monday, September 26th ~ Band Lessons begin

Tuesday, October 4th ~ Advanced Band begins, 6:30-8:00pm, KHS Band Room (2nd years only)

Saturday, December 3rd ~ Advanced Band Dress Rehearsal and Concert, KHS Auditorium, 12:00 rehearsal, 2:00pm concert

Sunday, December 4th ~ Advanced Band Concert Snow Date

Wednesday, April 11th ~ KEB Concert, 6:30pm, location TBD

Thursday, April 12th ~ KEB Concert Snow Date

Instrument cleaning

In order to care for your child's instrument properly it will need to be cleaned from time to time. General fingerprints and smudges do not affect the sound quality and are only a cosmetic concern. They can be wiped off gently with a soft cloth, or polishing cloth(sometimes included with the instrument).

Brass instruments can be "given a bath" by submerging them in warm water. Your child will learn how to do this in middle school, and in most cases, it is not necessary or recommended to do during elementary school. Your child simply won't play it enough to need this kind of cleaning for a while. Brass mouthpieces can be cleaned out with a mouthpiece brush and some soap and warm water. If you don't have a mouthpiece brush, you can purchase one for a few dollars. This can be done once a month or week as needed if you see "stuff" starting to build up. Mouthpieces can also be wiped down with rubbing alcohol to remove germs from time to time.

Woodwind instruments are generally cleaned when they are being repaired or tuned up in the instrument repair shop. Chances are, a key will get bent, a pad will need to be replaced, or some other general maintenance procedure will send your instrument to the repair shop; it will most likely be cleaned then also if needed. It is usually not necessary to do cleaning on your own. Students will learn how to “swab” their instruments, which means removing moisture from the inside with a special cloth. This is the most cleaning you will probably need to do. Also make sure that excess cork grease is wiped off with a paper towel. The mouthpiece can be cleaned out with a mouthpiece brush (available for a few dollars) and soap and water whenever you see “stuff” starting to build up. Mouthpieces can also be wiped down with rubbing alcohol to remove germs from time to time. It is very important to TAKE THE REED OFF THE MOUTHPIECE BEFORE PUTTING IT IN THE CASE! This increases the life of the reed but also prevents mold and bacteria from growing on the reed and mouthpiece.

Instrument Repairs

In the event that your child’s instrument needs a repair due to damage or normal maintenance, there are several convenient options for getting it fixed.

- **Ellis Music** – if you are renting your instrument from Ellis Music, they will take care of any repairs as part of your monthly rental fee. Simply call 802-234-6400 to arrange for a pick up of your child’s instrument at your school. They come every Thursday, and will bring a loaner instrument for your child to use while theirs is getting fixed.
- **Ellis Music** – if you have your own instrument, you may still use the Ellis Music repair service by following the steps above. You will have to pay for the repair, but they will call with an estimate before doing any work
- **Cheshire Music** – if you have your own instrument, you may take your instrument to Cheshire Music in Keene to be repaired.

Instrument returns

- If your child loses interest in the band program, I ask that you call or email me before withdrawing them from the program.
- After you have contacted me, you may return your rental instrument by calling Ellis Music 802-234-6400 and arranging a pick up at your school.
- If you would like to donate your lesson book or unused reeds to the band program, you can turn them in to me or put them in my mailbox. Donated items are given to students who can’t afford to purchase their own.

Step up instruments

If your child has shown a maintained interest in his/her instrument, you may consider purchasing an instrument for continued study. It is often a good time to purchase a “step up” or intermediate level instrument. Any rent credit you have accrued at Ellis Music goes toward the purchase of a new intermediate instrument (or your current instrument) so it is not “wasted money.” Ellis Music representatives are happy to help you select an instrument, and I can guide you as well. Sometimes Ellis Music has used instruments for sale, which can be an excellent deal (you can’t use your rent credit, but sometimes it is still cheaper). Also, Ellis Music has a holiday sale every year in November/December; this is a great time to buy step up instruments. Please contact me with any questions.

Private lessons

Individual private lessons are recommended for students who are looking to progress more rapidly and who have shown a high level of commitment to practicing. A list of private instructors is available from Mrs. Clark by email. You can expect to pay from \$10-25 per half hour, depending on the teacher.

Music Store Resources

Ellis Music and Cheshire Music are the two main resources for elementary band students and parents. The following is a list of their services:

Ellis Music ~ Bethel, VT 802-234-6400 info@ellismusic.com www.ellismusic.com	Cheshire Music ~ The Center at Keene 603-357-4277 sales@cheshiremusiconline.com www.cheshiremusiconline.com
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Rents affordable instruments ~ Visits the school once a week to pick up/drop off instruments and supplies (every Thursday) ~ Repairs instruments: NO COST if you are renting! ~ Provides loaner instruments during repairs ~ Order reeds/supplies online or by phone and get free delivery to your school! ~ Sells quality new and used "step up" instruments ~ Applies your rent credit toward the purchase of your instrument or a new step up instrument ~ Sells all materials you will need for instrument study, and has them in stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Convenient in-town location ~ Repairs instruments: affordable, good turn around time ~ Sells some beginner and step up instruments ~ Sells reeds and other band supplies: <u>Call for availability</u> ~ Offers private lessons

Elementary Band Required Materials

Every student must purchase a lesson book and a music stand for home practice.
If you already have a music stand at home, you do not need to purchase an additional one.

Lesson Book: Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 (for your instrument) \$9-\$15
Wire Music Stand: \$18.75

Flute

Required:

- Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Flute \$8.99
- Flute Swab \$7.00 **OR** Section of old t-shirt for swab. Info in lessons
- Music Stand \$18.75

Oboe

Required:

- Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Oboe \$9.99
- 2 reeds (order Fox Renard Oboe Reeds, Medium Soft) \$10.75 each
- Reed soaker \$4.00 (you can provide your own similar container)
- Micro double-ended oboe swab \$4.25
- Music Stand \$18.75

Clarinet

Required:

- Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Clarinet \$8.99
- Box of 10 reeds (order Bb Clarinet Rico Royal # 2's) \$14.25
- Micro clarinet swab \$2.75
- Music Stand \$18.75

Saxophone (Alto and Tenor)

Required:

- Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Alto or Tenor Sax \$8.99
 - Box of 10 reeds (order Rico Royal # 2's and specify instrument) \$20.25(alto) \$27.75(tenor)
 - Saxophone body swab \$5.25
 - Music Stand \$18.75
-

Trumpet

Required:

- Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Trumpet \$8.99
- Music Stand \$18.75

French Horn

Required:

- Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for French Horn \$9.99
- Music Stand \$18.75

Trombone

Required:

- Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Trombone \$8.99
- Music Stand \$18.75

Baritone

Required:

- Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Baritone (Bass Clef) \$8.99
- Music Stand \$18.75

Percussion

Required:

- Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 for Percussion \$14.99
 - Music Stand \$18.75
-

Congratulations on your new instrument!

Tips for Beginning Band Parents

What to Expect and How You Fit In

Your support is an essential part of your child's success in music study. Here are some things you can do to assure your student maintains consistent and steady growth.

GENERAL TIPS

What To Do

- Ask your child what she/he learned in band lessons and have them show you and perform for you
- Encourage your child to play for other family and friends
- Offer compliments and encouragement regularly, and listen for even the smallest improvements
- Expose your child to a wide variety of music, including live concerts
- Encourage your child to talk with you about his/her lessons
- Make sure your child's instrument is always in good working order
- Allow your child to play many types of music
- Listen to your child practice and acknowledge improvement
- Encourage your child to make a minimum one-year commitment to an instrument

What Not To Do

- Don't use practice as a punishment
- Don't insist your child play for others when they don't want to
- Don't ridicule or make fun of mistakes or less than perfect playing
- Don't apologize to others for your child's weak performance
- Don't allow siblings to make fun of your child's playing
- Don't start your child on an instrument that's in poor condition
- Don't expect rapid progress and development in the beginning

THE PARENT'S ROLE IN STUDENT PRACTICE

Even if you are not musically inclined yourself, you can help your child practice effectively. Here are some things that can greatly improve progress:

- Provide a quiet place in which to practice
- Remain nearby during practice times as often as possible
- Schedule consistent, daily time for practice. Daily short practice is better than one long practice for the week.
- Praise your child's efforts and improvements
- Encourage good posture and insist on the use of a music stand and chair (not the bed) - have your child demonstrate what he/she learned as the best posture
- Avoid damage by reminding your child to place the instrument in the case when it's not in his/her hands
- Encourage regular practice. In the beginning, 10-15 minutes a day is long enough to practice. After a few months, 20-25 minutes is appropriate. Beginning students need to develop in small, regular increments the muscles, endurance, and focus it takes to practice. Practicing too long can cause fatigue and is a waste of time. Practicing inconsistently negates the muscle memory that has been established in previous sessions. Even a 5-minute review of fingerings or a song is better than nothing.
- In the beginning, your child will be practicing mainly on the mouthpiece. You may hear strange and silly sounds, but this is ok. Listen for improvement in length of notes and consistency of sound. Offer compliments for improvement.
- If your child says something is "too hard" to accomplish, have them try some of these techniques
 - Slow it down
 - Try playing the "hard part" one measure at a time, or one note at a time

- “Sizzle” the rhythms
- Finger through the music without playing
- Remember that music study is a process. You won’t always be able to play everything perfectly. Improvement is the important part.

INSTRUMENT CARE

You’re making a substantial investment on an instrument. Here are some ways to protect that investment.

- If something doesn’t seem to be working correctly, take it to the music teacher right away
- Don’t use household tools on musical instruments! Have the music teacher or repair person look at it
- Remind your child to oil, grease, and swab the instrument regularly
- Have your child keep at least 3 good and working reeds in the case at all times

FOR YOUR FAMILY

A child’s music study also offers opportunities for shared family experiences, including:

- Attending music events
- Family music making
- Performing for and with family and friends
- A sense of pride and accomplishment for the entire family

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

If your child exhibits continued interest, you might consider the following:

- Purchasing his/her current instrument as a birthday or Christmas gift
- Starting lessons with a private lessons instructor
- Upgrading to a better mouthpiece (improves tone quality and overall flexibility)
- Purchasing accessories for the instrument (these make great stocking stuffers)

IF YOUR CHILD LOSES INTEREST

In the event that your child loses interest in music study, don’t panic.

- Discuss the situation with your child to determine why their interest is declining.
- Talk to your child’s music teacher to see what might be done to rekindle their enthusiasm.
- Offer increased enthusiasm and support

If you would like to talk more about how you can help your child be successful, don’t hesitate to contact me.

Kim Clark

kclark@sau29.org

352-8012

www.sau29.org/keeneelementaryband298.html