



Dear 2023 Keller High School Band Members and Parents:

Welcome to all members of the Keller High School Band Program! We hope that you have had a restful and enjoyable summer. It was certainly deserved after all of the hard work each of you did this past year! We are very excited to start the 2023-2024 marching season, and have a lot of great information to share with you.

## BAND STAFF

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It has been a summer of change for the Keller Band Staff. Mr. Heath, Mr. Simons, and Mr. Bloss return as part of our director team, with Mr. Heath now serving as our Director of Bands. We are excited to welcome Ms. Haley Emerson as one of our new band directors, and Mr. Edward Camarena as our new Color Guard director! Both of these great teachers have already been hard at work, and we are thrilled to have them as part of our band family!

We will have a "Meet and Greet" with the directors during our August Camp, and we would love to see both new and returning parents!

Wednesday, August 9th, 5 pm - Keller HS Main Bandhall

Contact information for the directors:

Ryan Heath – [ryan.heath@kellerisd.net](mailto:ryan.heath@kellerisd.net)

Daniel Bloss – [daniel.bloss@kellerisd.net](mailto:daniel.bloss@kellerisd.net)

Haley Emerson - [haley.emerson@kellerisd.net](mailto:haley.emerson@kellerisd.net)

Zac Simons - [zachary.simons@kellerisd.net](mailto:zachary.simons@kellerisd.net)

Edward Camarena - [edward.camarena@kellerisd.net](mailto:edward.camarena@kellerisd.net)

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM INFORMATION

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Our Student Leadership Team has already been working hard this summer. We will have two training/work days in which we will be going over leadership ideas, teaching strategies and planning for the weeks ahead. All sessions will be held in the KHS Band Hall. Bring \$\$ for lunch. We will all go to lunch together at a local restaurant.

### Training/Work Day

Monday, July 24th - 8 am-4 pm

Tuesday, July 25th - 8am - 4pm

## KELLER BAND REGISTRATION DAY

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Our Keller High School Marching Band Registration Day is on Saturday, August 19th. This day is for parents and students, and we will have a schedule in place for ALL band members (winds, percussion and colorguard) on this day, not just new members. This is an important day to take care of uniform fittings, portraits in uniform (see below), fall fees, band booster sign-ups, volunteer sign-ups and much, much more! Additionally, there will be a meeting for parents during each time slot. Each student must have at least one parent in attendance at registration.

The schedule for registration day will be sent out during the first week of rehearsals.

Please arrive promptly at your scheduled time so that you do not miss any of the announcements.

You will need to allow a couple of hours to complete this process. Your family has two options to pay for fees for Registration Day:

1] Pay online at the KISD Web Store (preferred). (The instructions to use this online service are listed later in this newsletter under the Financial Information section.)

2] Bring your checkbook/debit card, as you will have the opportunity to pay your fees and join band boosters.

*If you have more than one child in band, you may bring both of them at the same time. Generally, the earlier time works well in these cases, but either one will work. You do not need to communicate which time that you will be attending. We will take care of you when you arrive.*

Uniform Portraits-Registration Day – This will be the only day that portraits will be taken in uniform. Feel free to arrive with hair/makeup already done for this special occasion.

Please direct any registration day questions to:  
Mr. Heath - [ryan.heath@kellerisd.net](mailto:ryan.heath@kellerisd.net)

## AUGUST CAMP

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In order for us to be successful for our first performance, we need to meet before the first day of classes to rehearse. Please go to [www.kellerhighband.org](http://www.kellerhighband.org), and click the "calendar" on the upper right corner for specifics about each rehearsal day/times.

You will need the following at each rehearsal in addition to your instrument, music, etc.

- ✓ Your own 1-gallon water jug (marked with your name)
- ✓ Bath or beach towel
- ✓ Hat
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Athletic shorts (no pants or jeans)
- ✓ Light colored t-shirts (no long sleeves)
- ✓ Tennis shoes for running or cross training ( boots, sandals or hard-soled shoes are not allowed).
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ Pencil
- ✓ 3 ring binder with sheet protectors for all music

Students that are not dressed appropriately or do not have the above supplies may be sent home from rehearsal at the directors' discretion. Your safety is our number one concern!!!

Please contact Mr. Heath if you have any questions about August Camp at [ryan.heath@kellerisd.net](mailto:ryan.heath@kellerisd.net) .

## PHYSICALS

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ALL students will need to complete a Physical and Medical History form to participate in Band for the 2023-2024 school year. Please click the link below and follow ALL instructions. You will not be allowed to rehearse unless this is complete. This should have been completed prior to participating in our May Camp.

Paperwork will NOT be accepted via email or hard copy - Instructions are included below for how to submit your physical.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IDEv6fnZALrkLXk8QhjmjkfgrVhkCn4LOcoDH-sJ8uU/edit?usp=sharing>

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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Normally, we would share information in our summer letter about the various band fees and costs for the upcoming year. We have spent a lot of time working with KISD and our Band Booster Board to make the coming school year as affordable as possible for our families. We will send a financial update in the coming days that has all of the information you will need, so thank you for your patience and understanding!

## 1-MILE RUN

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One of the physical requirements for all marching band members is the completion of one mile (four laps around the track) in 10 minutes. The demands that are asked of today's marching bands are highly rigorous and athletic, and the performers need to be at a certain level of physical fitness to be successful. Begin training now if you have not started!!!

Everyone will attempt the one-mile distance as a part of your PE credit for the class. Suggestions for the summer are to start slowly, walking the distance without stopping at first. Next, see if you can make one lap around the track while timing yourself. Continue timing yourself on a regular basis, gradually adding distance and speed. If you are under the care of a physician and are not able to run, please bring a doctor's note on the first day of camp detailing specific modifications that you are to follow as well as the length of time that you require those modifications.

1st attempt to pass this off will be on Friday, July 31st.

## WOODWIND AND BRASS VARSITY AUDITIONS

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During our Spring Marching Camp, woodwind and brass students auditioned for provisional varsity marching spots. Students who completed their Smart Music assignments over the summer will make their spot permanent prior to the start of the Fall Marching Camp. Any remaining spots will be open for audition. These auditions will take place on Friday, July 28th.

For questions or additional information, email:  
[ryan.heath@kellerisd.net](mailto:ryan.heath@kellerisd.net)

## DAILY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

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Once classes begin on August 16<sup>th</sup>, we will begin our daily after school rehearsal schedule. It will be crucial that you are very aware of practice start and end times. After school practices begin at 4:30 pm. Ending times vary depending on the availability of the practice field. We work to make our schedule consistent, but with the number of activities and special events that we have to plan around, there may be changes. A detailed schedule will be posted on the calendar at [www.kellerhighband.org](http://www.kellerhighband.org) in the next few weeks.

Attendance is vital to what we do. Please schedule tutorials, doctor/dental appointments outside of all rehearsal times.

## DRUM CAMP

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All of our percussionists will participate in our KHS Drum Camp, which begins Monday, July 24th. Please check the BandApp for the schedule sent out by Mr. Simons. If you have any questions, you may contact him at [zachary.simons@kellerisd.net](mailto:zachary.simons@kellerisd.net).

## HELP NEEDED!

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We are in need of a band parent to be our Golf Cart Coordinator for the upcoming season! We are looking for someone that has access to a trailer that can get our golf cart to the various contest sites throughout the year. If you are interested and able to help, please contact our boosters at [president@kellerband.org](mailto:president@kellerband.org)!

## SAT/ACT TESTING SCHEDULE

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Please look at the Keller Indian Band website for the dates of SAT/ACT tests. You will see several that we recommend that do not conflict with band activities. Go to [www.indianband.org](http://www.indianband.org) and scroll down to the Google Calendar at the bottom of the website. If you click through each of the months, the recommended testing dates are listed.

The majority of the band program will be involved in three very important competitions in the fall that coincide with testing dates. Those dates are September 9th - Marchathon (ACT), and November 28th (Show of Shows) ACT. We have provided opportunities in the schedule for you to take these important exams. Plan and schedule now so you are able to be successful with both important items.

## MARCH•A•THON

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We will be holding our 21st Annual Marchathon on Saturday, September 9th. All band members perform at this event, which has become a memorable tradition in the Keller community. This is a fundraiser in which the entire band will contribute by collecting donations as we march along the parade route through Keller. We have a great time playing on the parade route and also stopping for scheduled concerts along the way. Stay tuned for more information about the parade route and how you or your neighbors can arrange a personalized concert!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Please look at the Keller Indian Band website for the complete list of games, contests and performances that will be required as a member of the KHS Band. Go to [www.kellerhighband.org](http://www.kellerhighband.org) , click on the Calendar link and scroll down to the Google Calendar at the bottom of the website for these important dates.

## 2023 MARCHING SHOW

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The Keller High School Marching Band is one of the elite marching ensembles in the nation. Over the past 9 years, the Keller Band has consistently been one of the top marching bands in the State of Texas, and one of the top 20 bands in the nation! The 2023 Keller High School Band will continue to entertain audiences this fall with the Keller "Spirit Show" as well as our 2023 production "Elysium." This performance includes the music of Samuel Barber, James Horner, and Gustav Mahler, with original music by Carol Brittin Chambers.

This is going to be one of the most exciting fall seasons in our 80-year history! You can see the Keller Band all over the DFW Metroplex on Friday nights at KHS Football Games as well as several local contests. This is a UIL State year, which means we will compete at both the Region and Area levels for a chance to compete at the UIL 6A State Marching Band Championships. That will be followed up by a trip to compete at the prestigious Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana!

We are excited to see everyone over the next few weeks. Please reach out to a band director if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

KHS Band Staff