

10-5-20

To: KHS Band Parents

Re: Band Students and First Six Weeks Grades

Parents,

With the end of the first 6 weeks happening this past Friday, and with the first 6 weeks report card coming out this week, this is an important time to discuss UIL Academic Eligibility. All Band Students must be Academically Eligible (under UIL rules) per the most recent grading cycle, in order to participate with the band at a performance during that period of time. With the 6 weeks report coming out this Friday, we will have many students that are going to be failing a class (with less than a 70) and this will make them ineligible to perform with the band for any performances during the next three weeks (October 9th to October 29th).

At last check, we had at least 35% of our 163 band members in jeopardy of failing an academic class at this first 6 weeks! We have been reminding our members daily about the importance of keeping up with their academic grades (as well as band assignments through the google classroom site).

In my opinion, most of these failing grades for our students have come from our Virtual time for the first 4 weeks of school, and not as much from the past two weeks of In-person school. It is my understanding from talking to peers in the band world that this has been (and is) a universal problem for many schools across the state. Irregardless of the circumstances that have brought us to this point, we are still required to adhere to the state law that only academically eligible students may perform or compete in our public performance events.

Our teachers still have until the end of the week to input, finalize, and change grades. We are hopeful that our students have contacted teaches and made progress these past few weeks so that they will be passing this Friday.

As far as our band performances the next three weeks (until October 29th), we only know of two at this time: The Next football game that we will perform at is the district championships on Friday October 16th (we do not know if this will be an away game or home game as of yet), and then the band will perform at the KHS

Homecoming Ceremony on Saturday October 17th. We are still awaiting details from the student council on this event before I provide details to the band. Plus there may also be another football game announced during this time period. Please note that ALL of our fall Marching Band competitions are taking place in early November, which is the next grading period. So the 9 weeks report card is the MOST IMPROTANT one for us as we look to our band competitions.

What this means is that We Need Every Band Member to Pass ALL of their Classes on the 9 weeks report card (in three weeks). **The 9 weeks ends on Friday October 23rd and the 9 weeks report card will come out on Friday October 30th.** Any students that are failing on the October 30th report card are going to be ineligible to participate with us from October 30th until November 20th (at a minimum), which is for all of our November competitions.

We are again stressing to our band students and to our band parents to make every effort to get our band students passing in three weeks so that the band can enjoy the opportunity to perform our “Palo Doro Show” in competition this year. Please contact your child’s teachers to see what you can do together to help our students pass their classes. We will continue to motivate them here as much as we can as well.

FYI... As soon as we get details on the next few weeks performances, I will pass them on to you.

Thanks for your support and help in this matter,

Erol K. Oktay
Director of Bands
Kennedale High School
oktaye@kisdtx.net
817563-8035