

Klein Forest Family of Schools



Wunderlich IS Wildcat Band



Klein Forest HS Golden Eagle Band



Klein IS Falcon Band

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Congratulations future Golden Eagle Band Members! Whether you are joining as a beginner at Wunderlich, beginner at Klein Intermediate, or joining the Klein Forest Band as a high-schooler, we are happy to have you and welcome you to our band family! Our family of schools consists of Klein Forest High School, Wunderlich Intermediate, and Klein Intermediate. You will find that each of these schools operates differently, but staff from all of the schools work together to propel each part of the family and the family as a whole.

The KFHS percussion director, Mr. Feliciano Montoya, helps teach percussion at both intermediate schools. In addition to percussion, Mr. Montoya also teaches guitar, bass, and piano. This helps to feed our jazz bands with rhythm section players. Listed below are the required materials for incoming percussionists as well as Mr. Montoya's recommendations for rhythm section students. If you are interested in playing a rhythm section instrument, such as piano, guitar, or bass, please contact your directors first. A conversation about the duties and expectations of rhythm section players could help prevent any confusion or unnecessary frustration further down the line. It is also important to let us know so that we can include you in any programs or events that are aimed at rhythm section instruments. Students who are exclusively interested in playing rhythm section instruments must still be in a performing musical ensemble, such as band, choir, or orchestra. Many students who are solely interested in rhythm instruments meet this requirement by being part of the band percussion section.

Any recommendation that is not directly specified with a model number is a chance for students to choose something that fits in with their personality. Sometimes we all need to match, but sometimes we don't. Pick the model and color that you want. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your band director or email Mr. Montoya at fmontoya1@kleinisd.net.

Percussionists

Intermediate School Year 1:

Stick Bag: Any standard or double-sized stick bag with zipper and name plate/tag

Concert Sticks: Salyer's PCS1FF Concert Maple Fulcrum Finder

Marimba Mallets: Any med-hard yarn marimba mallets (IP 240, Salyer's E20, etc.)

Practice Pad: Salyer's SPAD12D Double-Sided Practice Pad

Snare Stand: (Optional) Any standing-height snare stand to hold the pad at home

Intermediate School Year 2:

Timpani Mallets: Any hard timpani mallets. (not bamboo)

Any Hard Rubber/Plastic Bell/Xylo Mallets

Marching Sticks: Vic Firth Ralph Hardimon Jr.

Musician's Silicone Earplugs (Earplugs are REQUIRED for drumline activities)

Intermediate School Year 3:

Second Pair of Marimba Mallets (must match currently-owned pair. If none are owned yet, then get two pairs)

Practice Marimba with Stand (buy or rent. At least 3-octaves with wide bars)

High School Year 1:

Notes: These are the minimum required materials. Brand/model is not as important for students joining during high school.

A stick bag with zipper and name plate/tag, a pair of full-size marching snare Sticks (Ralph Hardimons, Scott Johnsons, etc.), a pair of concert snare sticks, white stick tape (stick tape or standard white electrical tape), silicone earplugs (required for any marching band rehearsal/practice), two matching pairs of medium/med-hard marimba mallets, a 12" practice pad.

Rhythm Section

Drum Set Recommendations:

Notes: Percussionists will eventually learn some drum set skills in their standard percussion curriculum, but drum set requires its own set of skills that most percussion students will not learn to a particularly high degree. For this reason, the drum set is considered a specialization outside of concert and marching percussion.

When an acoustic drumkit is not viable and an electronic drumkit is not in the budget, a practice drumset can be made from existing things around the house, such as pillows, tables, and mousepads. The most important parts of the practice kit are the kick pedal and snare drum. A kick pad and the existing snare pad on a stand will serve well as a practice kit. The next most important part is a functioning hi-hat pedal, which can only be bought as a real fully-functioning hi-hat stand.

Any 5-A Hickory drum set sticks (Vic Firth, ProMark, Vater, or IP. Extreme 5A also good)

Any Wire Brushes (optional at first, but will be necessary at some point)

Drum Key (necessary for adjusting various parts of drum sets)

Acoustic Drum Kit: Any acoustic drum kit will work as long as it has a kick drum, snare, and hi hat. Everything else is extra and not strictly necessary for a majority of drumset learning. A standard kit will also contain 2-3 toms, a ride cymbal, and a crash cymbal.

Acoustic Drum Mutes: For parental sanity. Rubber pads that mute the heads and cymbals.

Electronic Drum Kit: Electronic drum kits can be deceptive because the cheaper ones are not realistic and can lead to the development of bad habits in beginner students. The technology changes constantly and it would be best to pick a budget and ask your percussion teacher for a recommendation for an electric kit. The most important part of choosing an electronic kit is the mounting mechanism. The drum must be set up exactly like a real drum kit would, or the student will struggle to transition to a real drum kit later. In general, electronic kits under \$400 are likely not worth it, while you can get acoustic kits for cheaper that will be upgradable and usable for many years.

Practice Drumkits/Pads:

- Drumset practice pad set (Like the DW Go Anywhere Pad Set) and Kick Pedal
- Evans RealFeel Folding Bass Pedal Practice Pad and A kick pedal

Guitar Recommendations:

Notes: Short-scale guitars are not usually viable after a certain point, as the sound quality is not as good as a full-size guitar when tuned to standard guitar pitch. For particularly young students, an instrument known as a "Guitalele" is recommended. These instruments are set up and played exactly like a guitar, but tuned a fourth higher and are slightly larger than a standard ukulele. The higher tuning allows them to more closely resemble a guitar in tone and feel,

making the guitalele a viable instrument even after the student transitions to a full-size guitar. Unfortunately, the tuning difference means guitaleles cannot be used in a band setting, so they are only useful for solo practice and playing.

Electric Starter Packs- (only recommended for students over 4'10")

- Squier Affinity Strat HSS Starter Pack (Not SSS)
- Epiphone Les Paul Player Pack (Not the SL or Billie Joe version)
- Yamaha GigMaker EG Guitar Pack

Full-Size Electric Guitars (For Students over 4'10")

- Any Electric Solidbody HSS, HH, or HSH guitar
- Electric hollowbody guitars are recommended as a second guitar further down the road or if a student is big enough to comfortably play them. Eventually students should own both a solidbody and hollowbody guitar to play in a jazz band.

Short-Scale Electric Guitars (For students under 4'10")

- Squier Mini Jazzmaster or Affinity Mini Series Strats
- Jackson Minion Series Guitars

Acoustic and Classical Guitars

- Unlike with short-scale electric guitars, short-scale acoustic guitars are always viable and sound great. However, we don't use acoustic or classical guitars in band settings, so these would only be for personal use. When choosing an acoustic guitar for a young student, you can choose a full-length instrument with a thinner body so that the student is comfortable.
- Classical guitars, which are similar to acoustic guitars, have nylon strings and can be used to play guitar solos for the UIL State Solo&Ensemble Contest.
- Students can learn to play on acoustic instruments, but it will be more difficult and may discourage students from practicing. I recommend starting with an electric guitar and adding an acoustic guitar if the student shows interest in music that utilizes the acoustic or classical guitar.
- The term "acoustic-electric" indicates that the instrument is acoustic, but with amplification hardware built in. Acoustic-electric instruments do not fill the role of electric instruments in band settings.

Amps

- Any Fender Mustang Combo Amp

Bass Recommendations:

Notes: Unlike short-scale guitars, short-scale basses are always viable and sound great. This makes them still viable after a student has grown big enough to play a full-size instrument.

Electric Bass Starter Packs (only recommended for bigger students, 5'4" and up)

- Squier Affinity Jazz Bass Pack

- Squier Affinity PJ Bass Pack
- Ibanez IJSR190N Electric Bass Jumpstart Pack

Full-Size Electric Basses (For Students 5'4" and up)

- Any 4 or 5-string solidbody bass. Preference is for Fender/Squire Jazz Bass. Intermediate school students should start with a 4-string bass.

Short-Scale Electric Basses (For students under 5'4")

- Squier Mini Series Jazz Bass or Precision Bass
- Ibanez miKro Short-Scale Basses
- Jackson Minion Series Basses

Amps

- Any Fender Rumble Amp

Acoustic and Upright Basses

- Acoustic fretted basses are not used in band settings
- An "upright bass," "double bass," or "orchestral bass" is used in Jazz Band and Occasionally in Concert Band. It is recommended that all jazz bass players learn the upright bass at some point.
- Students who already play bass in the orchestra can use their orchestra bass in band settings. Students should not change the orchestra's bass setup to function better as a jazz bass. Students must inform the orchestra director if they are using a school-owned orchestra instrument in a band setting.
- Students who are not in orchestra can rent or buy an upright bass to use with the band. Parents should specify to the vendor that the bass will be used for jazz, so that the vendor can make setup changes and recommendations for preparing the bass for jazz.

Piano/Keyboard Recommendations:

Electronic Keyboard- Any electronic keyboard with 60+ keys is good enough for learning on, but it is recommended that students have at least 76 keys, weighted action, and a sustain pedal. A full-sized keyboard has 88 keys.

Acoustic Piano- Upright pianos, baby grand pianos, and grand pianos are all excellent for learning and playing on, but you may want to hire a professional to come check that the piano is in good condition and tuned. Old family heirloom pianos can be in rough shape, but that does not mean they can't be fixed and sound great again. I do not recommend buying one of these for the sole purpose of learning, due to cost and size.