



# **King George High School Marching Royal Regiment**

## **Student/Parent Handbook**

Updated for 2024 season

Joshua Morrison, Director  
[jmorrison@kgcs.k12.va.us](mailto:jmorrison@kgcs.k12.va.us)

“Developing Lifelong Excellence”

## **Foreword**

Welcome to the King George High School Royal Regiment Marching Band! This handbook is intended to guide all students and parents through their participation in the Marching Royal Regiment: what to do, what to expect, what to look forward to and what you must do to be a successful and contributing member of the King George Band. As a member of the band, students can look forward to a positive, rewarding, exciting and hard-working experience of a lifetime. Nothing can compare to the rewards of a successful high school band career.

**“Being in band”** is a shared musical experience and it creates a unique peer bond that cannot be duplicated by any other experience in the high school setting. You will find that being a member of the King George High School Band Program will aid in developing your character, academics, musicianship, and peer relations in ways that you will benefit from for a lifetime.

**“Being a Band Parent”** is a partnership with the band program and a connection with other parents to help support band activities. Active band parent participation in supporting band activities is vital to the success of the band program. All parents are expected to partner with the band program in support of their child and the organization as a whole. A parent’s presence, time, efforts, and financial support help our program provide students with the experience of a lifetime as a member of the King George High School Marching Royal Regiment.

**\*\*Please read this handbook carefully and return the appropriate forms as requested.**

Every question may not be answered by this handbook. However, before communicating with your student’s band director, consult with a seasoned parent, as they most likely have the answer to your questions!

**Thank you for becoming a part of the King George High School  
Marching Royal Regiment!**

## **WHO TO CONTACT**

The following is a list of the King George Band Directors and booster officers and their general responsibilities. The most appropriate form of communication with the staff is through email.

Mr. Joshua Morrison - Director of Bands, KGHS  
[jmorrison@kgcs.k12.va.us](mailto:jmorrison@kgcs.k12.va.us)

- Overall KGHS Band program questions

Mr. Kevin Cheatham - Director of Bands, KGMS  
[kcheatham@kgcs.k12.va.us](mailto:kcheatham@kgcs.k12.va.us)

- Any questions relating to Middle School Band operations

Mrs. Giva Conner - Director of Bands, KG Elementary Schools  
[gconner@kgcs.k12.va.us](mailto:gconner@kgcs.k12.va.us)

- Any questions relating to Elementary School Band operations

Ms. Madelyn Clark - Director of Bands, KGMS  
[mclark2@kgcs.k12.va.us](mailto:mclark2@kgcs.k12.va.us)

- Any questions relating to Middle School Band operations

John Trowbridge - President  
Email - [kbandparents@gmail.com](mailto:kbandparents@gmail.com)

- Any general questions that may be answered by a band parent
- New band parents should direct any non-financial questions here first

Lindsey Rabun - Treasurer,  
[Kgbp.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:Kgbp.treasurer@gmail.com)

- Any questions concerning student accounts
- Transferring money from student account

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **11 Ways to Succeed in the Extra-Curricular Area of Band**

1. Attend all practices and performances. They are all mandatory. Absence Forms are intended ONLY for unavoidable scheduled events. These will be defined later. They are NOT intended for last minute events that you scheduled on top of marching band rehearsal.
2. Arrange for transportation to and from practices and events. "Early is on time, and on time is late!" Make sure your transportation is ready to pick you up at the designated time.
3. Carry out instructions from the Directors, Drum Majors, Sections Leaders, and Band Staff without disrespectful responses.
4. Take individual accountability for all responsibilities that lead to a successful program. (Learning your music, having it memorized, knowing your drill) Do your part!
5. Bring all necessary materials for participation in the activity.
6. Properly maintain and protect your marching uniforms and instruments.
7. Keep all rehearsal and performance schedules!
8. Return any and all forms that are required in a timely fashion.
9. Do not play out of turn or individually during rehearsals, performances, or while in the stands.
10. Be your own person! Don't expect your parents to hold your hand throughout your entire life. Take responsibility for what needs to get done!
11. Treat fellow band members with respect.

### **5 Ways to Have a Healthy Marching Band Experience**

1. Wear a hat and sunglasses to rehearsal in the summer, and warm clothing in the fall!
2. Wear athletic shoes at all times. No Crocs, Hey Dudes, or similar footwear that does not have proper support or is not close-toed.
3. Drink plenty of water each morning and all day long, and eat plenty of healthy snacks. Please remember to eat a healthy lunch and dinner!
4. Bring your own water jug filled with ice and water every day. Small plastic bottles are not acceptable. Water breaks will be very quick, and not everyone will have a chance to refill their water bottles every break!
5. Get plenty of sleep throughout the season!

## **Keeping up with Academics**

Most of the activities associated with marching band are extra-curricular. Grades must be kept up in order to stay eligible for extra-curricular activities. You will not be excused from rehearsals and/or events to catch up on homework. **Your ability to perform at football games and competitions will be hindered based on your grades.**

## **Use of School-Owned Instruments**

A limited number of marching instruments are owned by King George High School, and will be signed out to students for use during the season. **There is a yearly use fee of \$25 for each student playing a school-owned instrument (including percussion).** This fee is waived for the 2024 season. This will be collected again for the 2025 seasons. This fee will cover normal maintenance and minor repairs. All other accidental damage other than normal wear and tear on the instrument will be completed at the parent's expense.

If, in the opinion of the King George High School director, a school-owned instrument is not being properly maintained or cared for at any time during the school year, it is the director's prerogative to remove the instrument from the student's care.

## **Uniforms**

All band students will be fitted for and issued a marching band uniform at the beginning of the season. The following regulations apply to King George Band uniforms:

- All uniforms will be fitted by the student uniform managers.
- Any loss of or damage to any parts of any uniform other than normal wear and tear will be the responsibility of the individual student.
- Food and drink other than water should never be consumed while in uniform. Certain exceptions will be made only by the directors
- Students will receive the following through their uniform item order form fees: Dinkles (marching shoes), show shirt, marching band gloves. Long black socks will need to be purchased on your own.
- There is absolutely no running, foul language, or horseplay while in uniform. Uniforms must be treated with the utmost respect, and members are expected to display the

highest form of professionalism. Improper behavior while in uniform will not be tolerated. The uniform is a representation of King George County.

## **POLICIES AND GUIDELINES**

### **Attendance Policy**

The Marching Royal Regiment is a huge time commitment. We rehearse Tuesday through Thursdays and Fridays depending on the football schedule. We compete on Saturdays from the end of September through the month of October. We attend playoff football games until the team loses (possibly into December). Marching Band must be the first after school priority if you decide to join.

The success of our show is dependent on all members attending all rehearsals possible.

Make a plan to schedule appointments that can be scheduled well in advance on Mondays.

Other commitments such as work and other fall activities should not interfere with marching band. You are committing to the full marching band experience and do not get to commit only 50% of your time to multiple activities.

**Band camp is July 29th through August 2nd and August 5th through August 9th. The inability to attend these two weeks is not acceptable if you wish to be a member of the band. This includes non-refundable vacations.**

1. Missing more than 1 rehearsal in a given week may result in you not performing with the band either at that week's football game or competition.
2. Being chronically absent multiple weeks in a row may result in your removal from the band.
3. Sitting out on full runs of the show at the end of rehearsal has the same consequences if it happens on a regular basis.

New material is added and reviewed each week and it is important that every band member attend all rehearsals possible.

The Directors realize that an occasional rehearsal may be missed for reasons such as sickness, death in the family, religious holidays, etc. These instances need to be communicated to the Band Director at least 2 weeks in advance. Exceptions are sickness and medical/family emergencies that are not planned in advance.

Be professional about this commitment. Communicate through email and Absence Forms. Do not simply tell a Director face to face about an absence and expect us to remember. We are a large organization which makes it very hard to remember every single face to face interaction each day.

Participation in all marching band performances is mandatory and at the discretion of the Directors all the way up until the performance time.

## **Tardy Policy**

All students are expected to be in the Band Hall at least 15 minutes before rehearsal begins, or at the time the director says. During after school rehearsals, we will take attendance 5 minutes before the scheduled rehearsal time begins. Each day, unless otherwise stated, we will line up outside and march to the field at the start of rehearsal. It is your job to arrive early to ensure that you have everything you need to be lined up outside at the start of rehearsal. The success of the band's involvement at events requires us to operate ahead of schedule.

Please make sure you are picked up on time as well! Communicate with your transportation about pick-up times so the staff does not have to wait around for you!

## **Discipline Policy**

Discipline is a quality that must come from the individual, therefore, each student is responsible for his/her own actions as a member of the King George Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively with the members and staff, may be sanctioned to disciplinary action. Leadership team members included.

**As a school group, the band is governed by King George High School and the King George County School District policies any time we are together for any band function whether it involves all students or only one.**

The policy agreement you sign virtually will be in effect throughout the season for all trips and activities related to the band. Any students who violate school rules while with the King George Band will be subject to school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students will be subject to dismissal and will not be permitted to participate with the King George Marching Royal Regiment.

Take responsibility for yourself on AND off the field! Actions performed outside of the band hall can interfere with your participation in this program!

## **ISS/OSS Policy**

If your student has been disciplined in the classroom and been given either ISS or OSS, they will not be allowed to attend rehearsals for the duration of the suspension. If the suspension carries over the weekend, their participation in weekend events may be affected.

## **Student Leadership Team**

Student leaders audition at the end of every school year to fill the roles of section leaders, Drum Majors, etc. for the next school year. The dedication of the student leaders is crucial in order to have a successful season on and off the field. The following are the requirements and responsibilities of the Student Leadership Team:

- Must maintain and be in good standing academically with all courses
- Complete pass-offs for all members of their section
- Must be present before and after every rehearsal. "First in, last out."
- Help establish correct rehearsal etiquette by setting a consistent example of proper rehearsal and marching technique. This includes your attitude!
- Help reinforce the importance of having all music, dot books, and equipment at rehearsals.
- Make phone calls to your section when asked, and attend officer meetings.
- Abide by the general officer requirements.



## **PARENT INFORMATION**

The King George Band Booster Organization, is a group of parents, siblings, and friends of the King George Band Program. We encourage you to support the efforts of our hard working students by participating. Please see the Band Website for more details on what you can do to get involved! Or ask any seasoned parent! They are some of the nicest people and are always willing to help if you have any questions or concerns.

### **Band Fees**

The base price for all members for the 2024 season is \$175 + whatever items you need from the uniform item order form. All members are also required to donate a case of water bottles (8oz size preferred). This fee is split into two different payments. Payments can be made in full if preferred. Checks should be made out to "KGBP".

Payment 1: \$60 + uniform item order form total (including show shirt) - due by Friday, May 24th

Payment 2: \$115 - due the first day of Band Camp

While certain financial circumstances where payments may need to be made a week or two late are understood, please do your best to make sure these payments are made on time. Reminders will be sent out throughout the season. Funds are needed for competition fees, equipment, show shirts, drill design, guard choreography, etc. and need to be purchased by a specific time! The case of water is used for football games, competitions, parades, etc.

There are fundraising efforts throughout the season to help cover your band fees. We have seen students pay their entire band fee using money they fundraised. Students will have their own account through the band booster, which money can be transferred to pay for band fees. Please talk to the Booster Treasurer for more information on how this works. WE WILL NEVER TURN ANYONE AWAY FOR FINANCIAL REASONS!

### **Band Camp**

Band Camp is held for two weeks prior to school starting. However, the leadership team, color guard, and drumline start a few days prior to full camp. Percussion and Color Guard will have a summer schedule of rehearsals. Camp is held at King George High School. A few things to your student will need for band camp:

- A one-gallon thermos. Absolutely no small, plastic water bottles. Make sure they are drinking plenty of water at home as well!
- They will need their own lunch every day. They will not be able to leave school grounds to get lunch! Students will not have access to a fridge.
- Sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses are a must!
- GOOD tennis shoes for marching. They will be on their feet for a long time.
- We rehearse in ALL types of weather! They need to be prepared for anything!

**Note:** Rehearsals, especially the early days, can seem like boot camp at times. Endurance training like running and fast paced marching help the kids get physically ready for some very long days ahead. Students with heavier instruments will get tired from holding their instruments up. For some students it can be an intense experience that can leave them feeling frustrated at times. Talk to them, support them and encourage them to hang in there. Before you make any final decisions about potentially quitting, talk to the directors and maybe an experienced band parent. They can get you past this hurdle!

**Drop off times:** “Early is on time, and on time is late.” We take attendance 5 minutes before rehearsal begins. Please plan on having your child at the school at least 15 minutes before the start of rehearsal.

**Pick up times** vary after practice and a lot depends on your child’s role in the band. Rehearsal will end at 5:30 pm on the field and you can expect your student to be back in the band room ready to be picked up around 5:40 pm. The band still needs to put their instruments away, and some sections have a brief meeting after rehearsal. Pit members and operations officers need to move the equipment from off the field and put it away. The pattern is pretty consistent throughout the season and rarely do practices end early. We encourage you to stroll over to our rehearsals and watch the ending! However, please make sure you are on time to pick up your child. Speaking of which...

**Band Directors are people, too.**

But they are BUSY people. They work long hours and their main focus is the kids. They spend more time in the school than most, so please pay special attention to details. If you have a specific concern about your child and the band program, schedule a time to

discuss it. If you need general information, directors are probably not your best resource. Try a fellow band parent first. They have ALL the wisdom.

**Parent Release Policy** - Picking up your student after a competition.

Occasionally parents may need to take their child directly following a competition performance. This must be taken care of in writing prior to the day of the competition. When picking up a student at the competition site, the parent/guardian must email the director stating who will be picking up the student, and when they will be taking them. No student will be allowed to leave a competition site with anyone other than his or her parent or another adult, without written permission from their parent/guardian. These requirements are in place to protect you and your student. The student is also responsible for having someone else unload their instrument and anything else they are responsible for when returning to the school. When leaving with an adult, the student AND adult must personally see a director to tell them they are leaving.

**We can't do it without you - volunteer and come to the booster meetings.**

You will be asked to commit time, energy, donations and the band fees to the band program. Unlike many sports programs, the King George Marching Royal Regiment must have parent volunteers for the programs to run smoothly, and it is the best way to get to know others. Plan to attend as many Booster meetings as you can. They are once every few months for only about an hour. The directors usually address the parents with updates on the show and will answer parent questions. It is time well spent.

About volunteering...no experience necessary. No, REALLY! There are tasks that require specific skills, but most opportunities do not. If you can grab a water from a cooler, use scissors, sew or build props - you have all the skills you need. Better yet, there is so much to do, you are bound to find something you actually enjoy doing.

**FINALLY - Yes, it's worth it!**

All of the rides, time, and effort that as a parent, you put into getting your child to practices are worth every second. You may not be able to appreciate that in the beginning. Your student may get discouraged at first. There is a lot of repetition, hot sweaty days, failures, and disappointments. Then the show starts to come together and everything changes. There is new energy, a new excitement. This is the point where they will either LOVE band, or plan a different activity next year. Most of the kids

LOVE band by the end of the season, so make them tough it out for the whole season.  
It will be worth it.

**GO BAND!**