



Kiltie Family Handbook

Welcome to the Kilties!

Greetings to our new Kiltie Families! We are excited for the new year and want to invite you to join in on the fun, camaraderie, and the pride that comes from being an active participant in the Kilties.

This guide will provide the basics about the Riverview High School Kiltie Band as well as the associated activities.

Kiltie Band Program and History

The Riverview Kiltie Band is comprised of the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, Varsity Band, Percussion, Bagpipes, Color Guard, and Highland Dance. Each member wears a unique uniform that pays homage to Sarasota's Scottish history. A group of mostly Scottish settlers arrived late December 1885 to establish what is now the City of Sarasota. The McDonald dress, adopted from the clan background of some of these settlers, is the tartan selected for the band's kilt. The British bright royal scarlet was selected as the traditional battle jacket, the same worn by current and traditional Scottish regiments.

The initial Kiltie Band totaled only 58 members in 1960. The first band trip took place at the Orange Bowl Parade in December 1961. From that time on, the band has played festivals and parades all over the United States and in several foreign countries, including Ireland, Scotland, England, and Germany. The Kilties even got into acting. In December of 1993, the band was filmed in a Christmas parade scene for the French movie "Seven Sundays".

The Kiltie Music Department

The Riverview High School Kiltie Marching Band operates under the direction of Mark Spreen, Director of Bands, Norm Vagn and Chuck Evans, Associate Directors.

Kiltie Band Booster Meetings

On the 2nd Monday of the month, everyone is encouraged to attend the monthly Booster meetings in the band room starting at 7 p.m. Board members, committee members, parents and band leadership share information, current issues, ideas, and needs during this time. These meetings are open to everyone.

The Kiltie Band Boosters consists of several elected positions and committees.

President	Vice President
Treasurer	Secretary
Chaperones	Field Crew
Concessions	Uniforms
Newsletter	Ways & Means
Kiltie Store	Awards Ceremony
Business Partners	Trip Accounts
Fundraising	

These positions and committees are open to all Kiltie Band parents. Even if someone is not able to take a leadership role, people are always needed on committees to assist, give ideas, or opinions. If a parent is interested in attending a committee meeting but is hesitant about committing, he or she is welcome to sit in upon a meeting to learn more about what it entails.

Elections for positions are held at the end of the school year. Candidate names are sent in an email to all Kiltie Families prior to election. All Boosters are eligible and encouraged to vote at this meeting.

Kiltie Band Boosters

Every band parent is automatically a member of the Riverview High School Kiltie Band Boosters. This group plays an important part in helping the Kiltie Band program. The Boosters provide support for projects, events, and financial assistance. It also works to promote social and recreational gatherings for members, their families and friends, and for creating a social, cooperative spirit.

Being an active participant in the Boosters is an amazing experience. There is a place for everyone within the organization: helping out in the stands, concessions, uniforms, on the field during marching season, chaperoning events, handing out tickets and programs at concerts, assisting a committee, setting up for events, and many more.

If you are working directly with students, you must complete a background check. This can be done on a PALS computer at any Sarasota County Public School, the School Board Landings location, or at the Kiltie Volunteer Training sessions in August.

If able, we ask that all parents volunteer for one event, game, or function. As the saying goes, “Many hands make light work”. There are times in which we need 50 volunteers in an evening, such as during marching season. The duties are easy but make a huge impact for the band.

The great part about being involved in Boosters is the friendship and fun that naturally happens with these activities. An added bonus is the memories you will be creating for the students, including your own. Many graduates state that being part of the Kilties was the best thing that happened to them during high school.

The Kiltie Year

The Kilties are busy throughout the entire school year. The following timeline provides you an overview of what to expect:

August through October

- Band Camp: all Kilties attend during the 2nd week of August.
- Uniform Checkout: prior to school starting, all band members will be fitted for their uniform. See section on Uniforms for more information.
- Evening Marching Practice: Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. until Marching MPAs (usually late October).
- Afternoon Marching Practice: Thursdays from 2:30-4:30 p.m. until Marching MPAs (usually late October).
- Friday Night Football Games: All Home games and usually two Away games. Schedules vary from season to season. If the Rams go into play-offs, our marching season is extended to support those games.
- FBA MPA Marching Assessments: usually late October. For more information, see section titled “FBA MPA”.

November through December

- Veteran’s Day Parade: the band marches in downtown Sarasota. This is the day in which the band will do a group and section photos.
- Fall Concert: In mid-November, bring the entire family and friends to the RPAC for a great show featuring the Kiltie Band.
- Sarasota Christmas Parade: takes place the first Saturday in December in downtown Sarasota.
- Winter Music Showcase: In mid-December, the music department puts on a beautiful holiday show in conjunction with the RHS Chorus.

January through June

- Sousa Concert: an evening of John Philips Sousa music presented by the Kilties in the RPAC. Bring the family!
- After school/evening Rehearsals: once a week from late January to late February in preparation for the FBA Concert MPA.
- FBA Solo/Ensemble: for students doing a solo or ensemble performance for an FBA assessment. Takes place second week of February.
- FBA Concert MPA: Takes place at the end of February. All bands participate.
- Spring Concert: Beginning of May.
- Senior Celebration and Awards Night: for all band members and their family. Night is to recognize and award students plus say farewell to our graduating members.
- Uniform Check-In: Turn in all uniform pieces.
- Graduation: Saturday after school ends (for non-graduating Symphonic and Wind Ensemble band members as well as Bagpipers).
- Incoming Band Camp: in early June for all new members plus current student leadership.

Keeping Track of Events

Several resources are available to assist in keeping track of dates for the various Kiltie events.

www.riverviewperformingarts.com/Band (gives a calendar of all events and practices)

www.facebook.com/RHSKilties (provides updates, photos, videos, Booster meeting reminders and minutes)

Direct emails from the Music Department. Kathryn Mocherman will send out reminders and information on a routine basis. If you are not on her email list, please contact her at Kathryn.Mocherman@sarasotacountyschools.net

Marching Season Tips

Marching season is an exciting and fun time for students and family. To make it safe and enjoyable for all, please consider the following tips:

- Hydration is a priority! Be sure to have your student drink plenty of water the day prior to and the day of marching practices or football games. During the games, Kiltie Band Booster volunteers continuously give them water to drink.
- The band is allowed to leave the stands during the 3rd quarter for drinks and pizza at the west side concession (food and drink aren't allowed in the stand except for the water handed out by Kiltie Band Booster volunteers). These items are available to the band for a small fee so send a few dollars with them.
- During the 3rd quarter break, the Kilties may have a drum-off with the visiting band's drum line. These take place at the end of the west concession and are open to anyone who wants to watch.
- Only scheduled volunteers are allowed in the band room (before and after games) and in the Kiltie bleacher section. Family is encouraged to come to the courtyard for pre-game line up and to sit in the bleacher section adjacent to the Kilties.
- After the games and other school year events, an unofficial gathering place for the students is the Applebee's on Clark Rd (almost to I-75). The parents many times will also gather at Gecko's next door. You don't need an invitation, just come on and join us.

Uniform Care

The uniform requires some maintenance to keep it in good condition. Any ruined or lost items must be replaced and will be charged to the student. Following is some guidance on how to care for the pieces:

Dry cleaning

Uniforms must be cleaned regularly between performances, especially during marching season. The following pieces are dry clean only: hats, jacket, kilt, tartan, socks. Do not wash the wool pieces or place them in the dryer.

Always check the price with the dry cleaner prior to dropping off the uniform as some may charge for each kilt pleat. Carlson Cleaners, on Tuttle Circle, has been offering cleaning of all the necessary pieces for around \$9.

Check to make sure the jacket comes back with all the buttons since students will be charged \$1 for each one that is missing.

Spats

The spats should be cleaned after every performance. They can be washed but **never** placed in a dryer. Oxyclean, in combination with the laundry bar soap Fels-Naptha, works well to keep them white.

Repairs or Borrowing Pieces

The Uniform Room is briefly open for students when arriving to the band room before an event. Repairs can be handled at this time. Pieces may also be borrowed in case one was left at home. Any borrowed items must be returned as soon as possible.

Sporrans

These are made of horsehair and should be hung up when not being worn. If the hairs start to curl up, hang the sporran up in the bathroom during a shower so that the steam relaxes the horsehair.

Band Trips

Every other year, the band takes a trip, which includes a musical performance such as a parade. These trips are a whirlwind of sightseeing and adventure. In the past, the band has traveled to many different states and even some European countries.

For many years, the Kiltie Band has utilized the services of a specific company that specializes in organizing band trips. These trips are well planned, down to the smallest details and maximized to make the most of every waking moment. Depending on the location, activities may include national monuments, national parks, and local cultural activities such as museums or plays.

As with any trip, near or far, student safety is always a top priority. On major band trips, every student is assigned to a chaperone and joins a small group of other students, also assigned to that chaperone. These groups, referred to as pods, do all activities together with the chaperone. This allows the students to safely participate and enjoy the activities being offered.

To assist the students in saving up for these trips, the band offers fundraising opportunities. Each student has his or her own trip account to accumulate fundraising earnings. This money will be used to offset any trip costs. Many different opportunities are provided for fundraising and all are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. Once a trip destination has been determined, parents will be notified several months in advance.

For the years in which the band is not taking a trip, the Wind Ensemble may participate in an out of state Music Festival. In the past, they have traveled to Gatlinburg, TN or Atlanta, GA for a long weekend.

FBA MPA

FBA and MPA will be heard frequently from August through March. FBA stands for Florida Bandmasters Association. The Association works towards the promotion and development of band programs in Florida. MPA is Music Performance Assessments. We are in District 11 (a 6 county area including Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, DeSoto, and Charlotte)

The Kilties participate in several FBA Music Performance Assessments. The band, solo performers, or ensembles are judged on several categories and given a grade from Poor to Superior.

The first event is our Marching MPAs that take place in late October. As many as 16 high school bands perform their half time show for judging on this day. Bands perform in order by the number of students, with Riverview being the last to play. Manatee High School has been the host for this event for many years. It is a great event that the whole family can enjoy.

Solo and Ensembles take place in February. Students perform individually or with a group in front of judges. This is a great opportunity for a student to improve performance skills and strengthen as a musician.

The final event is the Concert MPA. Varsity, Symphonic, and Wind Ensemble perform for judges in early March. Each band performs a march and two selections allowed from the FBA Music List. The students then do a sight-reading in which the students receive a new piece of unfamiliar music. The band is given a few minutes to study it prior to playing it for grading by the judges.

Information on the Florida Bandmasters Association and the MPAs, including dates, is found at: Fba.flmusiced.org

Uniforms

Every member of the Kiltie Band receives a uniform, which is the responsibility of the student to care for during the school year. These uniforms are stunning and really make the band stand out. Most of the items are custom-made pieces, which are expensive and require good care.

Prior to the start of school, uniforms are handed out at Uniform Checkout. Every student is individually fitted for each piece. Annually, every student pays a Fair Share amount for his or her uniform. The most common uniform is shown below while Guard and Dancers have their own unique outfit.

