

Hello Mansfield High School Band Families,

I hope you are all doing well. I know that this past spring and summer have been challenging times but we are looking forward to getting some band back into our lives.

While our band camp may not look like it did in years past, I feel it is important to get the band students back to band activities in a responsible and safe way. This email will outline the plan for band camp and some important facts as we move forward.

The purpose of this year's band camp is a little different than it has been in years past. Usually band camp is the first step in preparing for a competitive season and a number of performances at football games and parades. Unfortunately our competition season has been canceled due to the COVID-19 situation, and any other performance opportunities are still in question. Performance preparation was only part of the band camp experience, the other part of it was centered around building our team to have a strong year. Students would get to know each other, shake off the summer rust after not playing their instruments or spinning for a few months, and start to come together as a unit to prepare for whatever performance opportunity may still come. After what the students in Mansfield have experienced, we know the members of the band need these things now more than ever. Band camp this year will be geared toward preparing the students for the social and emotional aspects of being a part of this ensemble as well as lay the foundation for any performance that we might be lucky enough to have this year.

Band camp will primarily be geared toward marching, but any student who is a member of the band, even those students who are not in the honors band (part of marching band) are welcome to attend. Band camp is not mandatory for any student this year. This is an opportunity for students, but given the circumstances I want to make sure that all students feel comfortable. Because of this there is no penalty to a student's grade if they do not attend the 2020 band camp. Finally, if any student is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or may be in a situation where they have been exposed to COVID-19 or been around someone who has, we respectfully request that that student stay home and seek the appropriate medical care.

I will be asking that each family RSVP to inform us of their child's intention to attend band camp. This will help us keep our attendance records in order so that we can continue to operate with caution during challenging times. Also, attached you will find documentation regarding COVID-19 and our expectations for students, symptoms to check for, and hygiene requirements. Finally, students will be expected to wear a mask when they are not actively rehearsing or playing, or whenever they will be within 6 feet of other students or staff members. We request that students utilize hand sanitizer and utilize the portable restrooms available at Alumni field to minimize time indoors. Any student who is not following guidelines will not be permitted to stay at camp.

Band camp will run from Tuesday August 18th through Thursday August 20th from 5:30pm - 8pm. Governor Baker recently released new guidelines which limit group gatherings to under 50

people, because of this we have split the band into 3 sections and each section will attend one day. We will work in small groups for most of the night and the winds will gather together for a visual rehearsal to end the evening. I have included a schedule below:

The schedule for all three rehearsal evenings will be:

5:30pm - Students arrive and begin to set up for camp.

6pm - Rehearsal begins (Students in socially distanced groups).

7:00pm - Winds together in visual block (socially distanced at 6 ft. apart)

7:30pm - Team building (with social distancing).

8pm - Dismiss/Clean up

8:30pm - Clear MHS

In years past we have been happy to host parents coming to watch rehearsal, but given the current situation we ask that parents remain in their cars when picking up their students. Additional guidance is included regarding arrival and dismissal procedures. I am so excited to see many of you next week and I cannot wait to get back to band! Please reach out to me if you have any questions at all. Thank you for your support of the performing arts in our schools.

All the best,

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