

CCHS Band Program Return to School Update

The show will go on...in a manner of speaking. Band meets as a class within the scheduled school day and teaches a curriculum that crosses many of the core subject areas such as math, language arts, science, history and even foreign languages. Band is a co-curricular activity, but is often classified as an extracurricular activity. If you look at the prefix of extracurricular, extra-, it means outside or beyond. In the same vein, the co- in co-curricular means together, jointly, or partnership. So what does all this mean?

Band will be hosted virtually and face to face simultaneously for all returning band members or interested students in grades 5 - 12.

For those who chose Virtual Learning:

OPTION 1: Due to the district's revised Return to School Plan, students in grades 9 - 12 classified as 100% online students forfeit their opportunity in extracurricular activity participation. This means that band students cannot participate in band activities OUTSIDE OF THE NORMAL CLASS MEETING TIME. For High School and 8th grade students this means no football games, parades, concerts, etc. Students are forfeiting what many see as the "extracurricular" portion of our activity.

However, choosing this option does not mean you are out of band. Virtual students will be expected to log in and watch the class meeting at the normal band class time as well as complete/upload all assignments. As long as students meet the expectations of virtual learning, they will receive the credit for the class.

**For those that chose 100% virtual, dates will be set leading up to the start of school and periodically throughout the semester to allow virtual students to pick up the necessary materials needed for band.

OPTION 2: Another option for virtual students allows them to be virtual for every class EXCEPT BAND. According to the district's revised Return to School Plan, students must be on campus for one academic class in order to participate in extracurricular activities (i.e. sports and band activities outside of class such as football games, parades, concerts, etc.). This virtual option allows students to participate in ALL BAND ACTIVITIES in and out of the classroom as well as other sports on campus. Parents should have been contacted by the school in regards to this option.

**** For those who chose Virtual Learning, if you haven't heard from Mrs. Hugley, please contact her immediately through REMIND, EMAIL, or BAND HALL PHONE to confirm your virtual option.**

Face to Face Instruction:

For students participating in face to face instruction, band will continue as normally as possible. Students will go to the normal band class at their normal scheduled time. Students will be screened upon entering the building by asking COVID-19 related questions as recommended by the MHSAA as well as taking student temperatures using school issued thermometers. Band specific safety equipment will be issued to allow for the larger class size to meet in a less than adequate space indoors. Safety equipment refers to school issued instrument specific bell covers, school issued face shields and school issued individual instruments for students. Students will be required to utilize all safety equipment at all times unless their instrument does not allow for face shields to be worn while playing. Safety precautions will include all students wearing their school issued face shields during rehearsals when playing their instrument allows, as well as when listening to instruction. Students will be seated with 4- 6 feet of spacing between them as the room allows and all students will be facing the same direction within rehearsals. Students will place all personal belongings at their seats. Restrooms will have limited use with one student at a time entering/exiting.

There will be no travel until further notice and performance opportunities may be limited. All decisions will be dependent upon district and state guidelines.

All band students in grades 5 - 12:

No matter the learning option chosen, all band students will be expected to meet the financial expectations of being in band. Fees must be paid in full or payment arrangements made before students will be issued the equipment needed to continue participating. Although the band may look different, it still requires the same equipment, music, curriculum supplies, instrument supplies, etc. as it did before COVID-19. The only financial aspect of band that will not be in effect this year is travel. Travel money comes directly out of the budget issued by the school district, which has been drastically cut. All fees will continue to be used to purchase items to benefit the student whether they will be participating face to face or virtually.

We are in the process of setting up payment plans for each student as well as providing a contactless method of payment. In the meantime, all payments can still be submitted at the CCHS band hall. Please make sure all payments are in a sealed, labeled envelope denoting: Student Name, Amount, What the Payment is For, & Date Submitted. Receipts will be issued by the booster program, if not immediately, then within 2 weeks of submitted payment. If you have any concerns regarding fees, please contact the booster organization. Contact information can be found on our website.

How to Stay Up-to-Date:

During this time of uncertainty, we as directors will do our best to keep you informed every step of the way. We ask that parents and students do the same. The best way to contact directors is through REMIND. Other forms of communication can be found on the homepage of our website.

Sign up for Remind: School Communication Free App or Texting Service. Please see the appropriate grade tab for your class code on our website. (This is the most efficient way to stay in touch.)

Things to note before signing up:

- Please only sign up for the class that applies to you so that we can best manage class sizes. Parents will receive the same messages as students.
- Please use your actual name, not a screen name.
- Parents, please add a note with your student's name when you sign up.

Ways to Sign up:

Download the free app, create an account using your phone number or email and enter the class code when prompted.

OR

Text the designated class code using the @ symbol to 81010.

Website:

<https://www.cleveland.k12.ms.us/site/default.aspx?DomainID=1071>

(Cleveland School District page under the "For Parents" Menu)

Director Concerns:

We have fought and are continually fighting to maintain our students' abilities to still participate in band regardless of their choice of learning option because we understand the family atmosphere that has been created through music as well as students needing to return to a sense of normalcy throughout this pandemic. Please note our ultimate goals are for students to feel safe and successful. If at any time the directors feel as though a situation is counterintuitive to our goals, they will choose to do what is in the best interest of the students and the program.

We ask that no matter what option you are choosing, that you please stay in constant communication with us. REMIND is the best way to see updates and message directors at a moment's notice. We care for each of our students as well as their families and want this year to be a year of growth as individual musicians and as a band family.

Musically,
The Band Directors