

Norcross High School Band
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Lee Newman, Director
Maria Phillips, Asst. Director
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Dear Band Family,

I hope that this message finds all of you well. In this document you will find a lot of what I hope is helpful info as we prepare for band camp 2020. Please read this entire message and look over the schedule that is also attached with this email! Also, I must thank all of those parents and students that have been working on the props for this year's show. The props look great and seeing all of the work and dedication has been inspiring!

What should you expect at camp this year? COVID-19 has forced us to reimagine what camp will look like this season. The band staff and camp coordinator are taking every precaution possible to ensure the safety of the students and to still provide a great learning experience. Here are some of the procedures that have been put in place. Please keep in mind that these procedures are required by GCPS in order for us to have camp.

- All students, staff, and parent volunteers will report each morning for a temperature check and to answer the following questions: 1. Do you have COVID-19? 2. Have you been around anyone that has tested positive for COVID-19? 3. Have you recently visited a hotspot for COVID-19? 4. Have you recently been sick with symptoms of COVID-19?
- Students will be divided into 2 groups. Group 1 will consist of guard and percussion and Group 2 will consist of brass and woodwinds.
- The 2 groups will never be on campus at the same time. The 2 groups will not mix.
- This will ensure smaller numbers and allow us to practice social distancing.
- Please look over the camp schedule also attached in this email to see which dates your group needs to be at camp.
- A COVID-19 waiver form signed by student and parent is required.
- Masks are required! When we are not inside or performing a wind instrument, students, staff, and parents will be required to wear masks.
- Students can not share water, instruments, handshakes, warm hugs, etc. Please make sure that your student keeps up with their water cooler and brings it every day.
- All water fountains in the school are turned off. We will provide an area outside for students to refill their water coolers.
- All meals will be boxed meals.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for the students to use throughout the day. Disinfecting wipes will be used to wipe commonly touched surfaces.
- If your student does not feel well, they should not "push through it." They should stay home that day.
- We will be practicing social distancing like crazy! When wind players are playing their instruments, they will be extremely spread out in order to insure safety.
- For meals, students will not sit next to each other. They will be spread out and all facing the same direction. This is another reason for the smaller groups.
- We will have extra masks on hand, in case a student does not have one.
- Did I mention that masks are required?

I know that this is a lot of information. With that in mind, go back and read it all again. Make sure that you and your student understand everything that we are putting in place in order to have marching band camp. **Also, we will still have fun! The student leaders and staff are still working on how to still create awesome memories while adhering to GCPS mandates.**

Before I wrap up this extremely long message, I have a couple of more things for you. I am sure that by now you are aware of the option of Digital Learning versus In Person Learning that has been presented to all of us as both parents and students. My wife and I are wrestling with this right along with all of you. Hopefully, there will be information forth coming to help us make the correct decision for each of our situations. I want you to know that students who opt for Digital Learning are allowed to participate in marching band.

These are very interesting and potentially trying times for all of us. With that in mind here is my last request for all us. Approach this with curiosity, not fear or trepidation. Yes, camp, band, school, work, and everything else is different right now. Let's be curious about how we can take these challenges and make our band program better. Be curious about how we can better prepare our students to be the next generation of leaders. Leaders that will face problems not with fear but with the knowledge that leading, inspiring, and serving others can and will make a difference.

I look forward to seeing you all at camp!

Sincerely,

Lee Newman
Director of Bands