



The McCleskey Middle Band

Jody Miller & Andrew Paller, Directors

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www.mccleskeyband.org

Dear Parents of 7th and 8th Grade Band Students:

We are excited that we will be able to see many of the students in person on October 19. We know this comes with some anxiety about the situation. We have received quite a number of inquiries about band procedures, so we have put together some information for you. We have every reason to create a safe environment for the students and ourselves, so please rest assured we'll be looking out for the students!

First, how will things be different?

1. All chairs will face forward rather than be oriented in a typical arc.
2. Chairs will be spaced as far as we can. With the number of students who have indicated a face-to-face return, we anticipate a good ability to maintain space.
3. Students will have assigned chairs and an individual music stand. No sharing.
4. We will not be able to lend students mouthpieces or instruments on a day they forget theirs or if theirs is in the shop.
5. Percussionists will need to have all materials on the materials list. They will be able to use the drums and mallet instruments that are set up for class, but they will not be able to share drumsticks and mallets.
6. We will only allow a maximum of four students in each locker row at one time. We will insist that students get their instrument quickly and get to their seat so other students can then access their lockers.
7. Students will keep masks on when not playing an instrument. No exceptions. Percussionists will keep masks on at all times.
8. Students will not be allowed in the percussion room, the directors' offices, upstairs in the sectional space, or any other confined area, without explicit requests by the directors.
9. All water fountains in the buildings are covered. Students will need to bring their own water bottles.
10. We will not schedule traditional concerts until we receive specific guidance from the school district.
11. Students who will continue virtual learning are required to attend all classes through CTLS as scheduled; the schoolwide policy is that cameras must be on so that we can monitor progress in a valid and useful way. Because we will be monitoring both "rooms" of students at the same time, we expect virtual learners to signal through the chat if there is a question or need for clarification. We will check the chat frequently. At no time are virtual learners to sign off before the class is dismissed.

Now, how will things remain the same?

1. We will still offer open practice most weekday mornings from 8:00 AM until 9:00 AM, but this will not begin until October 26. We would like time to assess and revise any plans before we start. Because open practice is for practice, students who break distancing or safety expectations will lose the privilege of attending open practice.
2. We plan to offer jazz band, recorder ensemble, pep band, and other before- and after-school ensembles, but will announce the start of these at a later date. Safety protocols will remain the same as a regular band class.

Do students need band-specific protective equipment?

The district has only specified masks/face coverings. We aren't requiring additional or alternative protective measures. That being said, we certainly allow bell covers, face shields, musician-specific masks, instrument covers, or other protective equipment as long as it meets the Cobb County expectations of protection (face mask/covering) and as long as it doesn't hamper the ability to participate or cause some sort of instructional interruption. If these additional measures are of interest to you, a simple internet search will turn up some options. If the family chooses any of these extra measures, please note that none of them replace the

requirement to wear a mask or face covering.

I am sure we all have some learning to do along the way. As always, we appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we navigate each school day, improving as we go along. More than anything, we are glad these students are here making music and we look forward to this opportunity we will have to give more direct and immediate feedback than possible through a full virtual environment.

Please contact us if you have any questions or further concerns. Our many interactions with parents and students about the face-to-face return have shown us that there is plenty of understanding and patience in our community. We look forward to our continued journey.

Sincerely,

Jody Miller & Andrew Paller
Band Directors