



# ***OAK GROVE BANDS***

***THE SOUND OF GRIZZLY PRIDE***

Oak Grove High School  
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**Mike Howell, Director of Bands**

**Alex Larsen, Director of Bands**

July 23, 2020

Marching Band Parents, Students, and Staff,

This letter will provide much anticipated info about the 2020 marching band camp including a daily schedule and a reminder about the procedures. I understand that this is a lot of information and that it is incredibly different from what returning members and families are used to. Please be patient with us as we all figure this out together and remember that making music is our number one goal. We will make that happen!

Here is a list of procedures which **MUST** be followed daily when students are with us on campus. These are a combination of guidelines provided by Davidson County Schools in conjunction with the NC Department of Health and Human Services, the NC Department of Public Instruction, and the NC High School Athletic Association.

- **No more than 90 minutes per day. (specific schedule listed along with this letter)**
- **COVID-19 Pre-screening form and DCS Waiver must be completed before participation. (copies attached to the email sent with this letter in case you need them again)**
- **Per DCS guidelines, band camp is optional this year.**
- **Student's temperature and COVID-19 brief questionnaire must be completed each time they begin a practice session. Band Staff will be doing this according to guidelines.**
- **Students/Staff must maintain at least 6 feet social distancing at all times.**
- **Students/Staff must wear masks at all times unless playing instrument.**
- **Students must bring their own water bottle/drink and **MUST NOT** use water fountains.**
- **Students may use restrooms for **EMERGENCIES** only.**
- **Groups of 24 may meet **OUTSIDE** with 1 instructor or groups of 9 **INSIDE** with 1 instructor.**
- **Sharing of any equipment or instruments absolutely will not happen.**
- **ONE WAY halls/travel will be observed at all times.**
- **DCS Heat Day policy will be observed, meaning no outside activities between 10:30am and 6:00pm if above 90 degrees.**

As you all know, I normally provide a much more detailed and lengthy schedule for camp but, in this case, here is what the staff and I have created in order to at least begin the process of making music. We have broken the students up into their groups/sections in order to maintain the social distancing and other guidelines. We have also taken into account the size of the groups and the responses from the survey recently sent to the students regarding time of day.

I am sure some may be asking a few very important questions. First, what, if anything could we possibly accomplish split up so much and with only 90 min. per day? Second, is there a field show and are we going to be competing this season. Let me assure you, I have asked those a thousand times (daily) myself! Some of this we will discuss next week as we meet. I can tell you that our goal is to make as much happen in our 90 minutes together as we can in order to provide the best musical experience possible for our musicians. At Oak Grove, we have been used to adapting and making the best out of “non-traditional” situations and I have no doubts that we will rise to the occasion this time!

## **Here are the groups and schedule for camp\*:**

GROUP A: Color Guard

GROUP B: Brass

GROUP C: Woodwinds

GROUP D: Battery Percussion

GROUP E: Front Ensemble

GROUP F: Drum Majors

### **ALL 90 minute rehearsals will take place at OG from 8:30am until 10:00am.**

- Please do not arrive more than 5 minutes or so before 8:30am. The band staff will not arrive before 8:00am. If you must be dropped-off much before the 8:30am time, you must remain outside and appropriately “socially distanced” until given instructions. DO NOT try to enter the building and do not gather together to “socialize” even as tempted as you might be.
- **Masks must be worn at all times unless playing an instrument.** We will help you figure out when it is appropriate to remove your mask. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you.
- Students should bring a personal water bottle, sunglasses, and sunscreen.
- Eat a good breakfast and use the restroom before arrival. No snacks/food will be provided.
- No students will be asked to share equipment or instruments at any time.
- Students must have transportation home ready to pick-up at 10:00am. Staff will be available to assist with pick-up. DO NOT get out of vehicle. Students will come to vehicle.

### **WEEK 1 (July 27 – 31)**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday (7/27, 29, 31) → Groups A, B, D, F

Tuesday, Thursday (7/28, 30) → Groups A, C, E, F

### **WEEK 2 (August 3 – 7)**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday (8/3, 5, 7) → Groups A, C, E, F

Tuesday, Thursday (8/4, 6) → Groups A, B, D, F

\* We understand that with this schedule, our Color Guard and Drum Majors are asked to come every day. However, they represent smaller and more manageable groups and each have specific reasons for the increased attendance. Please know that we would love to meet with all of our students together every day but, given the guidelines and restrictions, this schedule represents what the staff feels is best for our band at this time.

Thank you all so much for your support and for hanging in there with us to keep our band program growing at Oak Grove!

Musically,

The image shows a handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Mike Howell". To the right of the signature is a simple line drawing of a musical note with a stem and a flag.

Mike Howell

***TWO LAST THINGS...***

**At some point during the two weeks of camp, we will try to host our first Band Booster meeting of this school year! More info will be given soon about the date and time.**

**Finally, if you feel as a family that you are not comfortable attending this year's band camp due to COVID-19 concerns, please email Mr. Howell as soon as possible.**

**[mhowell@davidson.k12.nc.us](mailto:mhowell@davidson.k12.nc.us)**