



*Daniel Mull, Director of Bands
Bradley Payne, Assistant Director of Bands
Ellen Carnes, Assistant Director of Bands*

southdoyleband.com

Dear South-Doyle Band Families,

I wanted to touch base to keep you informed on the state of the South-Doyle Band and what impact COVID-19 may have on our activities for 2020-2021. Unfortunately, there are still a lot of questions for which I do not have answers. However, I am committed to seeking out the most accurate information that is available and sharing that information with you as soon as it is made available to me. In this update, I would like to share with you what I do know and the developments I have been closely following.

First and foremost, band camp is still tentative. While it is scheduled to begin on July 20th, this may change depending upon what Knox County Schools announces on July 15th about returning this Fall. If KCS decides on a hybrid model with a combination of in-school and online instruction or fully online instruction, it will impact our ability to have a regular marching season. If we return to in-class instruction with specific guidelines and safety protocols, we will likely still have band camp but it will look different than in years past. ETSBOA has not made any announcements regarding competition season but TSSAA has announced that they plan to delay the start of football season, with a contingency plan still to be determined.

I, along with KCS leadership and the rest of the county band directors are closely following a study being led by Colorado University. The goal of the study is to determine what risk there is of COVID-19 transmission when playing wind instruments and how to mitigate such risk. Preliminary results are scheduled to be released on July 10th. The results of this study will help the county band directors and KCS leaders determine how the performing arts can safely return to the classroom. More information regarding the study can be found here: <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/>.

Lastly, the Knox County high school band directors have been collaborating and working together as a team to help navigate the uncertainty of this coming year. We have been in contact with the Fine Arts Director for KCS with questions and concerns specifically regarding band. We are hopeful the county will soon be providing us with very specific guidance. In the meantime, please check our band website, www.southdoyleband.com, for regular updates. For students interested in marching band, please see the “Band Camp 2020” tab on the website and complete the forms that are posted. The forms can be brought in hard copy to band camp or can be sent to me in digital form at daniel.mull@knoxschools.org. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Be safe and stay well!

Sincerely,

Daniel I. Mull