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Dear South-Doyle Band Families,

There were a number of events and meetings that needed to take place before I could send out another update. The Knox County high school band directors met virtually yesterday evening for a second time to brainstorm ideas and discuss what band in Knox County might look like this year. This morning I met with principals Mr. Berry and Mr. Carter to discuss a gameplan for band camp given the new July guidelines. This evening, I attended a live webinar reviewing the preliminary results of the Colorado University Performing Arts Aerosol Study.

First and foremost, I will address the aerosol study. The study did not utilize a live COVID-19 virus nor did it involve participants infected with COVID-19. According to emerging research, there is anecdotal evidence to suggest the virus can travel via aerosols and microscopic droplets expelled by an infected person. The intent of this study was to determine how those aerosols are dispersed when playing wind instruments in an indoor environment. It was determined that performing on wind instruments do produce aerosols and that there is a need to contain such aerosol emissions. If you would like to review the preliminary results of the study, you can access them by clicking the following link:

<https://www.nfhs.org/media/4029952/preliminary-testing-report-7-13-20.pdf>

With all of this being said, it is important to understand that there is not a scenario in which there is zero risk. All of the area band directors are working diligently, under the guidance of the Marching Band Advisory Group and the administration, to figure out how students can return to band in the safest way possible and how we can mitigate such risk. Undoubtedly, band will look different this year but it is imperative that our focus not be on what we can't do, but what we CAN do.

The most restrictive guideline that we must follow is that **wind instruments must not be played indoors**. This may change as more results from the Performing Arts Aerosol Study are released. However, for the time being we must adhere to this guideline and make accommodations as necessary. Further guidelines provided by the county **prohibit gatherings of more than 50 individuals in an indoor or outdoor setting unless separated into smaller groups and social distancing can be maintained**.

The following page includes my notes on how we will make accommodations for these restrictions and follow the guidelines provided by the Marching Band Advisory Group and KCS. These will be discussed at the Band Booster meeting tomorrow evening, July 14th.

Band Camp Schedule:

- Given that wind instruments are not permitted to play indoors, all music rehearsal (for wind instruments) must occur outdoors.
 - It is not reasonable for students to be outdoors all day, especially during the heat of the day, so I am planning to shorten the rehearsal schedule.
 - I am considering either only a morning or evening rehearsal schedule or simply an abbreviated day. This decision is contingent upon KCS reopening plan which will be announced on July 15th.
 - Other facilities will be available on campus in the chance of inclement weather.

Gatherings of 50 or more:

- To make accommodations for this restriction, students will be split into groups and rotate throughout the day to different stations. (i.e. Music Rehearsal, Marching Fundamentals, “Reading a Drill Chart 101”, etc.)

Food & Water:

- Students must bring their own water bottles.
 - There are to be no communal water coolers.
- Students must bring their own lunch (pending the new rehearsal schedule).
 - Prepackaged and sterile food/snacks will be available for students who are unable to bring their own lunch and/or water.

Temperature Checks & Symptoms Disclosure:

- At the beginning of each day, every student and staff member will have their temperatures checked with a contactless infrared thermometer.
 - Individuals with a temperature of 100.4 and above will be asked to leave for the day and only return once they have gone a full 48 hours without an elevated fever.
- Individuals will also be asked to disclose if they or anyone in their household have been experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

PPE and Social Distancing:

- While I cannot require it, I am going to request that all students and staff bring a mask or face covering to be worn when indoors.
- Social distancing should be observed at all times both indoors and outdoors.
- When social distancing cannot be observed outdoors, students are asked to wear their masks unless they are playing their instruments (wind instruments).

Facilities & Cleaning Supplies:

- I will be reaching out to the administration and facilities to ensure that common areas in the band building are regularly cleaned and that hand sanitizer and other cleaning supplies will be on hand.

I realize that this is a great deal of information to process and that you may still have many more questions. Please understand that this situation is very fluid and that I, along with other directors and leadership, are approaching it day by day and step by step. It is my goal to have a finalized band camp schedule posted by this Thursday, July 16th. In the meantime, please complete your band camp forms as well the Google Form survey that was sent to your emails this evening by Mr. Davidson.

Sincerely,



Mr. Mull