



*Daniel Mull, Director of Bands  
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southdoyleband.com

Dear South-Doyle Band Families,

I regret to inform you that I have made the difficult decision to cancel band camp for this season. This decision has the full support of Mr. Tim Berry, SDHS Executive Principal, Dr. Jean Heise, KCS Humanities Supervisor, and Dr. Heather Casteel, KCS Fine Arts Specialist. Due to the significant increase of COVID-19 cases within the county, a majority of the other band programs have also made this decision. Please understand that this was an incredibly difficult decision to make and one that breaks my heart considerably. However, we firmly believe this is the best decision right now given that the health and safety of our students is our number one priority.

Please know that the cancelation of band camp does not mean we are canceling the 2020-2021 season. What it does mean is that we are keeping our students and their families safe while we take more time to plan how we can do this activity safely. I am looking at the possibility of holding a virtual band camp as a replacement. While a virtual camp could never truly replace the in-person experience, it would allow me to engage with the students in some way. It would also allow us to “dust off the cobwebs” and prepare for when we can be together in person.

**On a more positive note, we now know that students who chose the virtual option for the Fall will still be allowed to participate in after school activities like marching band.** I know some of you are planning to explore the virtual option for the first semester and may have questions as to how this will work. There are certain logistics I must figure out and I will be working diligently on this in the coming weeks before school starts.

The high school band directors will be meeting next week to brainstorm, collaborate, and further discuss our options for this year. In the meantime, my best advice for you is to stay home when possible and practice good hygiene. Take some time for yourself and step away from all the noise. Seek out positivity and moments of joy. I hope and pray that we'll be on the other side of this very soon, and on the other side of it TOGETHER.

Stay well. Stay strong.

Sincerely,

Daniel I. Mull