

Dear Parents/Guardians,

To say teaching band online in a pandemic is hard would be a huge understatement. I am learning every day and trying to provide the best experience possible for all my students. Thank you for allowing your child to be a part of this program.

As we turn the corner into the holiday season and some regulations are becoming more clear, I found it best to write and inform you of how Concert Band will be structured in the coming weeks. Each day your student should be logging on to Google Meet. Class begins at 1:10pm and ends at 2:20pm. Their log-on time differs depending upon what they play and which section is being focused on each day.

Monday = Woodwind sectionals @ 1:10, everyone else log on at 1:55

Tuesday = Brass sectionals @ 1:10, everyone else log on at 1:55

Wednesday = Percussion sectionals, everyone else log on at 1:55

Thursday = Everyone log on at 1:10, then dismiss for private lessons

Friday = something different every week

All sectionals have the option to be in-person at school. I strongly encourage students to try and come to school for their sectional day. I understand that there may be many reasons as to why they cannot attend, but if possible, they should. There is no substitution for in-person music rehearsal. These small groups allow me to provide better instruction for your student and operate in the confines of our Covid guidelines. If your student attends, they must enter through the front doors with a mask, get their temp checked, and sign in through the office. Students must also sign out in the office upon their exit. This is a new procedure.

I take your student's health and safety very seriously. All chairs in the band room are 6ft apart in all directions. Tape is on the floor to ensure chairs stay proper distance. Every student is being given an instrument bell cover to drastically cut down on aerosol emissions while rehearsing. Students must wear masks until seated and playing their instrument. Each student uses their own stand and music. Upon conclusion of rehearsal, students use a disinfecting wipe to clean their stand before putting it away. At the end of each day, the room is disinfected by our school janitorial staff.

Due to current guidelines, I cannot have the entire band attend class during the school day. We are too large. However, after school we can have full-band rehearsals in the gymnasium. I have planned 2 in-person rehearsals before the Christmas Concert. One is THURSDAY, NOV 12 from 6:30-8:00pm. The second is THURSDAY, DEC 10 from 7:15-8:45pm. The same procedures apply to these rehearsals as they do for the sectionals at school. I cannot stress enough how important these rehearsals are to the group's success in preparing and presenting a concert in December. Please mark your calendars now and make plans to attend.

The Christmas Concert will be SUNDAY, DEC 13 at 3pm in the Corbin High School gymnasium. The concert will last 30-45 minutes and seating will be limited due to current guidelines. More about how I plan to handle that will be posted online in the days to come.

We are also playing at the Downtown Christmas Open House on SUNDAY, NOV 22. The event is from 2-4pm and will showcase our small ensembles. Each ensemble will play in different areas of downtown (Nibroc Park, outside of stores, etc). Students have been rehearsing this music in band class, but we will also be having 1 after school sectional for each group before the performances downtown. These rehearsals after school will also follow the same rules and guidelines listed above. The schedule for these after school rehearsals are as follows:

MONDAY, NOV 16 from 6:30-8:00pm = Brass in band room and Saxes in atrium

TUESDAY, NOV 17 from 6:30-8:00pm = Clarinets in band room and Flutes in atrium

THURSDAY, NOV 19 from 6:30-8:00pm = Percussion in band room

All the most current information about practices, sectionals, and concerts can be found online at www.corbinbands.com. There is a calendar there that I update frequently. I also post important documents there, like this letter. We also have a Facebook Group called Corbin High School Band. I strongly encourage you to go join the group so you can see announcements and schedule changes immediately. Finally, I also communicate through a texting app called Remind 101. To join, text @redhound to 81010.

Once again, I want to say thank you for allowing your child to be a part of this program – especially in a year like this. I believe kids need music and the arts more than ever and I want to provide a safe avenue for them to still experience it. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel to call or email me.

Sincerely,

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