

Band Booster Update Meeting
July 15, 2020 7:00pm

I. Director's Update

A. Marching Band:

- We are a competitive, high level, high quality program that will challenge our students and push students to do their best.
- As a band, we are currently following the athletic updates. The NC Athletic Association update: the start of fall sports is delayed until at least September 1. The first 5 days of school are designated as a "dead" period for all sports. All athletics and co-curricular activities in Wake County are suspended indefinitely.
- Mr. Biasi met with Mr. Morrison and student leaders this week before the statement from the athletic association. There may be more updates in the upcoming week. There has not been an official statement from Wake County stating "no" to band competitions, but there is a very high probability that there will be no competitions this year. There is still a hope and desire that football season will happen. There are many unknowns about how this will look and whether or not fans will be present. There are some challenges that have not completely been explained. Field trips are suspended indefinitely.
- We purposely did not make payments for the upcoming season because so much is currently unknown. We have not signed any contracts this year, except for drill writer and show designer.
- We want students to continue in band. Until at least September 1, marching band will be virtual and classes will be virtual.
- We are going to be proactive and bring together a virtual "camp," utilizing a buddy system mentor program, that will bring together our older members with new members.
- Staff will be putting videos together with basic information: fundamentals, breathing exercises, links to information, sharing videos from other programs, etc.
- Charms - we are still adding new members into Charms. Parents, please sign in and update emails (both parents and student wcpss email), contact information, and emergency contact.

B. Other HSHS band programs include:

- Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble (Compete in MPA)
- Orchestra
- Jazz Ensemble
- Color Guard and Winter Guard
- Indoor Percussion

C. Classroom Instruction

- A survey will be sent out about Virtual Academy vs. in person learning
- The numbers for Virtual Academy, will tell us if the class will be held virtually. Mr. Biasi will be teaching Virtual Academy students at HSHS in addition to Remote B.

- Remote learning will be different than it was in the spring.
- The B schedule will also depend on how many students will be in the building based on class size, transportation, and rotations. Our ensemble classes will not look like they did in the spring. Our plan is to be able to do some sort of playing but are working some things out with the numbers.
- Right now the bell schedule is uncertain but will likely include time for cleaning between classes.
- If you elect to do Virtual Academy and we do have co-curricular activities, Virtual Academy students will be able to participate. Students do not need to drop band to be in the Virtual Academy. They are also still members of the program and can participate in any after school or virtual activity connected with the band and the school.
- A Virtual Academy Open House will be held Thursday, July 16 5:30pm. A link was included in Mr. Morrison's weekly update and is also on the WCPSS website. The presentation is archived under on the WCPSS YouTube channel.

II. **Board Updates:**

Susan Powers, Co-President

- Will be working with Julie Hepner, Co-President
- Band is so much more than playing an instrument, it's fostering friendships with students and parents.
- We work to provide a fun, rewarding, and safe environment. We will follow guidelines and find creative ways to move forward. The board will meet to brainstorm ideas and will share information with members and parents as soon as it is available.
- Charms is our main communication tool. We use it to send emails, manage money, and make payments. All students need to be entered into Charms with a Wake County email, parent email and emergency contact. If you need to make any changes, please let Susan or Mr. Biasi know as soon as possible.
- We will also order spirit wear through the Charms system. We will let you know when spirit wear is available for purchase. The store is only open for a short period of time. Hoodies, show shirts, caps, and volunteer shirts are available. The show shirt will be required for all events.
- Fundraising - there are a few things you can do right now:
 - Link your Harris Teeter card to the HSHS band boosters. www.harristeeter.com Together in Education. Code: 6427 Holly Springs High School Band
 - Amazon Smile - smile.amazon.com, click Choose Charity, select Holly Springs High School Band Boosters
 - Go Play Save - offering a "no contact fundraiser." Stacey Kloc, VP of Fundraising will be contacting you with additional information as soon as it is available.

Julie Hepner, Co-President Update

- A. I look forward to working with you. If there are any questions, especially from new parents please feel free to reach out. julie@jhps.com 919-427-5229

Board Introductions

Lisa Martin - Volunteer Coordinator

Mike Sommers - Transportation Coordinator

Debbie Zdankiewicz - Treasurer

Nate Wymer - PNC Coordinator

III. President Introduction:

Pauline Zdankiewicz - is excited for the upcoming year. Planning some fun events.

IV. Questions from members / parents:

- Can there be a friends and family show?
 - We will have to know when we will be able to have a crowd. It will be a less competitive program this year. We are not able to create a drill until we know when we can come back together. We've been brainstorming ideas of how at football games we may be able to have separate 25 member groups to rotate. The guard may be able to have routines to perform for football games. We are also trying to find ways to do recordings with small groups and merge the videos together to share with our local community: families, town council, mayor, etc. Other ideas include parades through neighborhoods. Everyone wants to get out there and perform and we are going to do our best to find ways to do that.
- Is it a possibility that football will be pushed to the spring and if so, will marching band follow?
 - There has been no decision made, but the idea is not favored by the NC Athletic Association because of the effect on spring sports.
- Can groups meet to practice?
 - NO - no groups may meet until September 1.
- Does choosing the Virtual Academy affect student leadership? No
- How do we practice sousaphones and mellophones if they are at school?
 - There may be a small rental fee, taking money up front \$50-\$75. Dates will be scheduled for outside pickup.
- Do students need to submit audition videos for concert band or marching band?
 - The only auditioned groups that we have for marching band are guard and percussion. Guard members have completed video auditions. As of now percussion auditions are on hold because most do not have access to instruments. Class auditions were sent out by middle school directors and are encouraged. Concert band is an entry level group. Most freshmen begin concert band but some freshmen come in stronger and are ready for a higher challenge

and the video audition is beneficial to place in a higher level band. Sight reading through sight reading factory may also be part of the audition. Freshmen should check their student email accounts for additional information. Wind ensemble is the highest level band and is seated first, then Symphonic, an intermediate band (a large number of Freshman place out of concert band into symphonic band), then concert. Placements are based on audition and amount of space available in sections.

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Hutton, HSHS Band Booster Secretary