



Buckeye Instrumental Music Department

Phone 330-722-8257 ext. 3038 • Fax 330-723-5606
3084 Columbia Road, Medina, Ohio 44256

Dear Band Parents and Students,

We have been approved to start the marching band program. Our plan was approved by the Medina Health Department.

I want to assure everyone that our staff is reading and following the guidelines and practices in regard to music education and Covid-19.

We have adjusted the band schedule to follow the approved plan by the Medina County Health Department.

It is important to remember that this is a fluid situation where things change each day. We must be ready to adjust to any situation and remain flexible.

We are requiring band members to sign up for “pods” of 9 members. “Pods” will be sections of the band by instruments. To get started, band members must go online and sign up for a pod. Pods will have individually rehearsals.

The percussion section will also be placed in “Pods” of 9. This will allow us to monitor the band safely and work with the Medina County Health Department should any problem arise.

Our Marching Band Staff has decided to begin rehearsals in the following manner:

1. Adjust the Schedule to reflect the Medina County Health Department Plan
2. Require Band Members sign up for pods.
3. Require all band members to sign up for Final Forms.
4. Staff will report first and implement all guidelines before student arrival.
5. 1st Week of rehearsals: Percussion will report for 3 days for 2-hour long rehearsals each day.
6. 2nd Week of rehearsals Winds will attend in scheduled “Pods” and Percussion will rehearse on separate days. 2 Hours rehearsals each day.
7. 3rd Week Band Rehearsals together complying with the Medina Health Department Guidelines. (TBD Phase 3 depending on what the Medina Health Department will allow.)
8. Band Camp will be TBD. Rehearsals will be shortened to meet the approved guidelines.
9. Band Competitions will be TBD as OMEA makes decisions.
10. We will update the schedule along the way per guidelines from both the Medina County Health Department and State of Ohio.

I want to assure everyone that our staff has been on a mission to make sure that we are as safe as possible. Everyone is in this together. Band will look a little bit different, but this will be good for our students socially and emotionally. We are thankful that we can have this opportunity.

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Attendance:

- Students will be screened by a designated director upon arrival and questions recorded.
- Daily Attendance must be taken by a designated director.
- Directors should be included in this attendance log with any other staff.

Screening:

- A symptom checklist will be asked and recorded.
- Symptoms should include the following, but are not limited to:
 - Cough, fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, diarrhea, temperature over 99.6 degrees Fahrenheit.
- A student who exhibits these symptoms will be sent home and a parent/guardian contacted. The student may not return until a release to return to participation from a physician is received. A student who informs a director or staff member that they will be absent from a rehearsal/practice due to a symptom above will also be required to provide a release to return to participation from a physician before returning. If a positive case is suspected or confirmed, attendance will be used for contact tracing.
- All Screenings will be documented using the [Student Monitoring Form](#)

Hydration:

- Each Band Member must have their own water bottle; there will be no sharing of water bottles permitted. Each Band member will be encouraged to have several bottles of water for practice.
- There will be no common water stations provided or permitted.

Limitations on Gatherings:

- Band "Pods" of 9 will be used to start the band this year and to record health tracking. These formed pods will be used like sectionals at times with the same director.
- Gatherings should consist of no more than 50 people at a time (outside), to include all participants and directors. (10 inside).
- Access to the Instrumental Storage Room and Band room will be limited to Tubas and Percussionists only. Entry/Exit into the building will be for Tubas/Percussion only. One student at a time may enter/exit staying within zones marked out in blue tape on the floor as guides for students to place their Tuba or Percussion equipment.
- All students will be required to wear a mask when they are not playing a wind instrument.
- All students will be required to transport their instrument to and from rehearsal each day from home. (Exception will be Tubas and Percussionists following guideline plan above).
- Percussionists will not be able to leave any other items with their instrument while it is being stored at the school.
- Marching Band Members should report to rehearsals/practices in proper rehearsal attire and it is highly recommended they immediately return home to shower at the end of the rehearsal/practice.
- There will be no access to the school restrooms.
- All marching band rehearsals/practices will be planned to be outside.
- Rehearsals/Practices will be cancelled ahead of time by the directors using Remind 101 App. if weather information indicates that the chance of rain is greater than 50% during the scheduled rehearsal. This determination will be made 1 hour prior to the rehearsal/practice.

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- While at rehearsal, the directors may cancel the remaining period of that rehearsal due to imminent weather conditions. In the event of a cancellation during a rehearsal, students will be expected to leave the rehearsal immediately or contact a family member for immediate pickup.
- Students are to bring their own equipment as needed. Example: Valve Oil and reeds etc.
- Band Members are not to arrive more than 10 minutes before the scheduled start of the rehearsal time and must depart or be picked up no more than 10 minutes after the scheduled conclusion of the rehearsal.
- Outdoor practice locations will be used.
- Large groups can be broken into small pods.
 - Band Members in a pod should remain in the same pod with the same coach.
 - Attendance in these pods should be recorded
- Social distancing is always required, including during water and rest breaks (6ft.).

Sanitation:

- Entry/Exit into the building will be for Tubas/Percussion only. One student at a time may enter/exit staying within zones marked out in blue tape on the floor as guides for students to place their Tuba or Percussion equipment.
- Our drill will be 6 Feet apart to achieve social distancing standards during rehearsals, practice, and performances.
- Shirts and shoes are always to be worn.
- Prior to an individual or pod entering the facility, all hard surfaces within that facility must be wiped down and sanitized.
- Individuals should sanitize their hands or wash their hands for 20 seconds with warm water and soap both before and after touching any surfaces.
- Students will always be encouraged to carry hand sanitizer with them.

Masks:

- Students will wear a mask to and from rehearsal/practices.
- Students may remove the mask only during physical activity and /or while playing their instrument.
- Directors will always wear a mask.

Equipment - General:

- Equipment should not be shared between band members.
- Band Members will not allow anyone else to carry or handle their equipment.
- Percussionists, Guard, Tubas, Baritones, Mellophones, and Low Reeds will all use school owned equipment.
- Once equipment is assigned to them no other student will be allowed to touch, move, or play that instrument/equipment.
- Students will be responsible for sanitizing their assigned equipment and their own equipment.
- All students should routinely clean their instruments.
- All equipment must be cleaned after each band member use.
- Directors should follow all other safety recommendations per the OHSAA General Non-Contact Sports and NFHS.
 - IE: Using an air horn instead of a whistle.