



# Wildcat Bands

COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL

TAMPA, IDAHO

27 July 2020

Re: 2020 Fall Camp, Marching Season

Dear Wildcat Band Parents & Students,

Welcome to the Columbia High Bands 2020-21 school year! Thank you for your patience in waiting to receive information about this year's band season. With nearly daily fluctuations in information and procedures, I wanted to communicate clearly, and I will continue to do so as early and often as I can. We will all need need to be flexible this year.

**This letter contains TONS of important information for the fall so please be sure that both students(s) and parents read it thoroughly, and hold on to all the information for the later reference.** See the end of this letter for COVID19 procedures. Please do not hesitate to call or email if you have questions at any time. I can be reached at Columbia High School (208.498.0571) or by e-mail ([pmcentee@nsd131.org](mailto:pmcentee@nsd131.org)). **Please do not call my personal cell phone.**

Leadership and percussion camps starts this Wednesday - Friday. The building will be closed this week due to deep cleaning for any and all reasons. This means all instruction will be outside. Only staff is allowed inside the building. If you are an at-risk student or are sick, and your parents do not feel comfortable for you to participate on one or all of these days (see calendar), know that is not required. **But you must notify me if this is the case.**

### **July 29 - 31 - 9:00 am - 12 Noon**

High School Marching Band Camp is August 3 – 6. If you are an at-risk student or are sick, and your parents do not feel comfortable for you to participate on one or all of these days (see calendar), know that you are not required. **Please notify me if this is the case.**

Band Camp Schedule is as follows:

**August 3 - 6, 9:00 am – 12:00 Noon**

Please ensure that you arrive 10-15 minutes early each day in order for the safety check-in protocol to begin promptly at rehearsal start time. Leadership needs to report a half-hour prior to all call times listed in this calendar, throughout the season. If you have music or instrument needs, contact me now, prior to the beginning of camp, so you are ready to go that first morning.

Evening rehearsals begin the following week, on August 10 – 13, from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**August 10-13, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

Students, please get all the dates and times (the entire calendar) to your employers. Work, family meals/visitors, etc. are not a valid excuse for missing rehearsals or performances. Your employers and families are willing to work with your school schedule if you give them plenty of notice, so talk to them about these dates and times now.

When you miss a rehearsal, it has a drastic impact on every other member of the band. By choosing this large ensemble and fine program, you are choosing to commit to all rehearsals and performances in their entirety.

Any conflicts with rehearsals need to be brought to Mr. McEntee's attention immediately. You will not be able to leave band camp to register for school – please register online using your Snap code. If you are sick (throwing up, high fever, etc) or exhibiting any symptoms of sickness, please DO NOT attend camp on that day and have your parent send an email to [pmcentee@nsd131.org](mailto:pmcentee@nsd131.org) communicating your absence.

For camp, you need ALL of the following:

- 2 masks - One with a hole for mouthpiece (slit)
- A hat or cap
- White or light-colored short-sleeved t-shirt and gym shorts
- Your instrument, music, a pencil
- Closed-heel and toe tennis shoes for marching
- A large water thermos (1/2 or 1 gallon size)
- Sunscreen/bug spray

- Medical supplies (inhalers, epi-pen if applicable).

Check out our marching band dates for this fall (calendar)! The focus for the entire band program leans heavily on PRIDE IN PERFORMANCE!!! In the absence of fall competitions, much of this performance will be for one another in rehearsal, and potentially – football games and less formal performances for families.

This calendar includes all required performance and rehearsal dates for the entire year for your planning purposes (and your flexibility on changes and cancelations is much appreciated). I will communicate as early and as often as I can.

I am also willing to work with school fall athletic practice/game conflicts, but only if you inform me and communicate about them in advance (it is best to email me and then talk to me before or after school). Please don't surprise me the night of your first game.

We have four regular season Home Football Games Performances, at which we will perform in the stands only if bands are allowed. Unfortunately, all local marching festivals have been canceled due to the pandemic. In lieu of fall travel, bands might be able to travel in the Spring, pending any travel restrictions and a safer environment in general.

**Instrument Repair and Maintenance Fee:** If you play a school-owned instrument(s) for any ensemble, you will pay an instrument repair and maintenance fee in the amount of \$50 for the year. This fee helps cover routine maintenance and cleaning/consumables on the instrument each year – you will be responsible for any malicious damages to school instruments that you make on top of this. All percussionists will pay this fee as well. Please pay this fee with your uniform fees, the first week of school.

**Music Prep/Evening Rehearsals:** You will be responsible for memorizing all fundamentals and the first movement only of Lostl. It is crucial to get the music memorized accurately as soon as possible, so you can focus on the movement more easily. You should have your music learned when you report to marching band camp, and we will memorize during the first two weeks of rehearsal.

Our 2020 Fall Season will be unlike any other, requiring flexibility on all members' parts. Important in this school year will be to maintain a positive mindset and to see this as a gift of time and an opportunity to develop skills and camaraderie as a band. Our work this fall will focus on developing the skills and continuing to refine the process of the marching art, including: defining/refining visual basics, marching style, and vocabulary; memorizing music, and learning drill; working in chamber ensembles and working hard to develop as the excellent musicians and band for which this program is known.

In order to maintain the process of learning music and drill, we will have evening rehearsals once school starts, as outlined above. Due to the school schedule, we will only have two,

45-minute class periods per week per student, and that is not enough time for viable ensemble rehearsal. Plan on reporting by 5:45 pm for a punctual start. These are regular rehearsals, and they are mandatory and will be assessed in the grade (EARLY is on time, well-prepared)!

Once again, I am really looking forward to an outstanding (and flexible) year with one of the finest band programs in the Northwest! With your talent, dedication, pride, and commitment, this is going to be a fantastic year for the Wildcat Marching Band.

Blessings,

Paul McEntee

Director of Bands

Columbia Wildcat Marching Bands

## **Goals for High School Marching Plans**

1. Protect the health and safety of students and staff - physical, emotional and mental.
2. Consistent with local health authorities' recommendations
3. Adaptability and flexibility with evolution of COVID 19.
4. Emphasize a culture of personal accountability and high integrity
5. Encourage predictable patterns of behavior
6. Limit interactions & isolate groups as much as possible.

### Logistics

1. Marching Band camp will start on August 3rd and go for two weeks.
2. To maintain appropriate distancing Marching Band students will not be in the building, except for restroom breaks. All personal items will be kept with them and all rehearsals will be outside. Personal items need to be spaced out and not in a pile and/or touching.
3. The only students allowed inside the band room will be percussionists, tuba players, and color guard captains. This equipment is all stored in the room and is too big for the student to easily transport them individually.
4. We will only play our instruments outside.
5. We are still waiting for IHSA guidelines and allowances of bands to perform at football games. We may be able to give "virtual" performances via webcast or similar so that we could have a goal to work towards and still be able to share with our community. This part of things is really up in the air.
6. Financially, we are all trying to be as conservative as possible as we know that a good percentage of our families have been unemployed or experiencing other financial stresses.

## **Band Requirements**

1. Handwashing/Hand sanitizing/Respiratory Etiquette
  - a. Promote good hand hygiene
  - b. Hand sanitizer will be widely available at practices and in classroom settings
  - c. Frequent verbal prompting and cueing of handwashing will be incorporated in daily rhetoric with students

- d. Completing cover cough or sneeze

## 2. Cleaning & Disinfecting

- a. Intensified cleaning & disinfecting efforts through environmental services
- b. Enhanced cleaning of high touch surfaces

## 3. Stay home if you have symptoms

- a. Provide education about symptoms vs sickness or illness to staff, students, and patrons with education stressing concept ‘STAY home if you have symptoms’
- b. Symptoms may include:
  - I. Dry cough
  - II. Sore throat
  - III. Congestion or runny nose
  - IV. Fatigue
  - V. Difficulty breathing
  - VI. Headache
  - VII. Fever
  - VIII. Muscle or body aches
  - IX. New loss of taste or smell
  - X. Nausea or vomiting
  - XI. Diarrhea

Parents will be engaged via email and text messages to conduct daily checks with their children for symptoms and low-grade temp before sending them to school. Parents will be advised of responsibility for immediate pickup from practice when notified.

At the beginning of every practice staff will conduct daily symptoms check (visual and verbal) as to general overall health

## 4. Physical distancing

- a. Identify physical distancing strategies based on feasibility of space and needs.
- b. Minimize group activities with students facing each other
- c. Students will be 7.5 - 8ft in distance d/t increased spread from projection
- d. Cloth Face coverings if inside - Cloth Face coverings are mandated.