



# OAK PRAIRIE

## JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BAND

30 July 2020

Dear D92 Band Families,

While the District is currently working on accommodations and schedules for instruction, we wanted to reach out to you to let you know that we are working diligently to provide your children with an engaging and high quality music education throughout the pandemic. Whether you choose Distance Learning or Blended Model learning, we have taken into consideration every accommodation based on the latest ongoing scientific studies to ensure that your child's health and safety are met at all times. Aerosol studies are currently underway at the University of Colorado and are being replicated at the University of Maryland. We are following [these recommendations](#) from NFHS, CBDNA, NAFME, and social distancing guidelines from the IDPH/CDC.

Both learning models will rely heavily on student interaction electronically. We will continue to use Zoom to meet with all Band students on Wednesdays. Furthermore, students that select Distance Learning will be able to participate in rehearsals via Zoom directly into the classroom two days per week. Assignments will be completed using Google Classroom and Flipgrid (for video uploads) on Remote Days.

Blended (In Person) Learning will take place with special accommodations, including social distancing of at least 6ft (9ft for trombones), masks adjusted for playing, and bell covers (example in photo). Furthermore, when we are able to rehearse outside, we will provide students with this opportunity.



Students will have opportunities to work in smaller ensembles on a variety of music, much of which has been specifically designed for distance instruction. Although our performances this year may look quite a bit different than in past years, we do plan to utilize both live-stream and collaborative learning projects to showcase our students musical talents. Students will be learning how to record and mix music through the Soundtrap application. Social Emotional Learning will be integrated into instruction as we focus on developing skill, knowledge and affective outcomes, afterall band is like a family at Oak Prairie.

6th Grade students will continue to progress through the [Tradition of Excellence Book 1](#) that was used in 5th Grade. 7th & 8th Grade students will use [Tradition of Excellence Book 2](#), which gives students access to play along files and has been written in a Comprehensive Musicianship style. *Tradition of Excellence Book 2* can be ordered from [Quinlan and Fabish](#) or from online retailers. Please make sure

<http://band.d92.org>



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to order Book 2 for your child's specific instrument. If finances are an issue, please contact Mr. Rank directly and we will make sure that your child has the supplies they need for band classes. Any student interested in Jazz Band, we will use the [First Place for Jazz](#) method by Dean Sorenson. Books will be provided to any interested students and we hope to have rehearsals up and running when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we will rehearse via Zoom (time and dates TBA) and use Soundtrap to record together.

As details for the upcoming school year are still very fluid, please know that we are 100% committed to ensuring the safety of your children. If you have any reservations about the class at this point, please do not hesitate to contact us to see how we can accommodate your concerns. Please know that we will always welcome your children into our classes; once my student, always my student.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Rank  
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Additional Links:

[Fall 2020 Guidance for Music Education - NFHS/NAfME](#)

[Preliminary Results Presentation - University of Colorado \(Boulder\)](#)

[Recommendations for Instrumental Music Education based on Preliminary Aerosol Studies](#)

