

NEW MANCHESTER HS
MIGHTY MARCHING JAGUARS
COVID-19
Summer/Fall 2020

Plan for Returning to Band Activities

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The purpose of this document is to outline the tentative plans of the New Manchester High School Marching Band program and its return to student participation during the summer and fall months of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The safety of our students, staff members, and parent volunteers is paramount and was considered at every step throughout the preparation of this document.

Resources used to prepare this document include but are not limited to the following:

1. Current CDC guidelines pertaining to social distancing standards and personal hygiene
2. State guidelines as issued by the office of the Governor
3. Student-activity participation guidelines as issued by the National Federation of High Schools
4. Student-activity participation guidelines as issued by the Georgia Music Educators Association
5. COVID-19 Student Safety Recommendation guidelines prepared by the College Band Directors National Association Athletic Band Symposium
6. Guidelines from Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools as prepared by the Georgia Department of Education
7. COVID-19 Student Safety Recommendation guidelines prepared by the High School Band Directors National Association
8. Army Band COVID-19 Risk Mitigation for Large Groups guidelines as prepared by the United States Army Band
9. Summer Marching Band Practices and Rehearsal Guidelines as prepared by the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL)
10. Douglas County Schools Guidelines for Athletics as prepared by the DCSS Athletics and Band Recommendations as prepared by the DCSS Band Directors.

All information presented below is based on recommendations and guidelines that are current as of June 15, 2020 with the understanding that the COVID-19 pandemic is a very fluid situation and guidelines change rapidly. The plans enclosed in the following document are meant to adhere to as many of these guidelines as possible in an effort to keep our students, staff members, and parent volunteers safe.

The 2020 New Manchester High School Marching Band will consist of approximately 95 students (8% of the student body). The challenges we are facing are substantial. These plans, in addition to guidance from local administration, will provide the safe and educational environment we are all hoping for.

It is worth reminding that this is a "temporary" situation and our goal is to return to normal as quickly as safety guidelines will allow. It is also important to state that participation in music education is more important now than it ever has been. Music and the arts should be an important part of the curriculum and students should be given equal and equitable access to the arts as they will be held accountable for participation.

Plan A – Low to No Spread (Green)

Plan A describes a best-case scenario where the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed dramatically and summer rehearsals and school openings are not altered at all. Large groups are allowed to gather under this plan and social distancing requirements have eased.

All school-owned instruments at New Manchester High School that have not been checked out have already been sent to the music repair shop and have been chemically cleaned and disinfected. We can assure all students and parents that the instrument they will receive from New Manchester High School will be ready for use in the summer/fall.

Camp Schedule (Green)

July 13-17	Summer Band Camp	7am-5:00pm	Approximately 110 students & Staff
July 20-24	Summer Band Camp	7am-5:00pm	Approximately 110 students & Staff
July 27-28	Summer Band Camp	7am-5:00pm	Approximately 105 students & Staff
July 29-30	Night Rehearsals Begin	5pm-9:00pm	Approximately 105 students & Staff
July 30	Preview Performance	7pm	Stadium (Tentative)

- A record of all adults and student's health responses in attendance must be recorded
- Before each rehearsal can begin each student will be screened via a series of questions regarding their personal health and the health of those they have come into contact with and should include a temperature screening. This will take place prior to entering the rehearsal area.
- Participants should be encouraged to wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- Hand-sanitizing stations should be available for students and staff
- Students will not share instruments or equipment
- There will be no shared food or water by students, staff, or parent volunteers
- Students are required to bring their own thermos or water bottle
- Social Distancing should be in place 6' for still music, 3 step minimum interval for drill and romatons. Georgia department of Public Health guidance should be followed.
- If indoor practices are conducted, students must still maintain a safe distance apart and all used surfaces must be sanitized immediately following their usage
- Restroom access will be limited and constrained to emergency needs. Students should wash hands with soap for 20 seconds
- If restrooms are available they should be used one student at a time and monitored by a sponsor

- An indoor facility that will allow social distancing guidelines to be maintained should be reserved in the event of inclement weather events
- Students may wear cloth masks when they are not performing on their instrument before, during and after rehearsal periods
- Director, staff, and parent volunteers attending rehearsals are encouraged to wear a mask.
- Practice rooms, band library, and instrument storage rooms are not to be used due to poor air circulation
- Student are not to congregate in the hallway outside the band room or in the B-building entryways
- Band office will be off limits to all with the exception of the band director and band staff.

Plan B – Moderate Spread (Yellow)

Plan B describes a scenario where the COVID-19 pandemic has not slowed and social distancing guidelines are still in place. School is open (regular schedule or hybrid schedule) and football games are being played. This plan requires the most careful planning and implementation and parental assistance.

Students will be divided into groups and placed into rehearsal zones. This will minimize the number of students that will be in the group at one time, and help to account for *People per Sq. Feet*. Zones will rotate to the practice field/stadium for drill and conditioning at designated times to not exceed the gathering limit set by state and local officials. Full band rehearsals will be allowed if gathering conditions allow it.

**Sections may be moved to different zones than what is listed below.*

Camp Schedule Option: 1 (Yellow)

DATE	Zone 1 Band Room	Zone 2 Aux Gym	Zone 3 Wrestling Room	Zone 4 Theater/Outside
July 13-17 7am-4pm	Woodwinds	Brass	Auxiliary	Percussion
July 20-24 7am-4pm	Woodwinds	Brass	Auxiliary	Percussion
July 27-28 7am-4pm	Woodwinds	Brass	Auxiliary	Percussion
July 29-30	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
July 30	Preview	Performance	Stadium	(Tentative)

Students will be divided into groups to minimize the number of students in the group at one time, and to account for *People per Sq. Feet*. The sections designated “*Full Ensemble*” are the days that the NMHS band program has secured the necessary space to house our band inside to instill proper distancing measures. Adjustments to *Full Ensemble* rehearsals will be made to meet state and local guidelines as needed

Camp Schedule: Option 2 (Yellow)

DATE	Section 1 7am - 12pm	Section 2 4pm - 9pm	Location(s)
July 13-14, 20-21	Auxiliary & Woodwinds	Brass & Percussion	Band Room, Wrestling room, Aux Gym, Outdoor area
July 15-17,22-24	Auxiliary	All Winds: Brass, Woodwinds & Percussion	Band Room, Wrestling room, Aux Gym, Outdoor area
July 27-28	Sectionals as Scheduled	Full Band: Brass, Woodwinds, Percussion & Auxiliary	Band Room, Wrestling room, Aux Gym
July 29-30	No Rehearsal	Full Band: Brass, Woodwinds, Percussion & Auxiliary	Aux Gym, Practice Field, Stadium, Outdoor area
July 30	Preview	Performance	Stadium (Tentative)

Summer Rehearsals

- A record of all adults and student’s health responses in attendance must be recorded
- Before each rehearsal can begin each student will be screened via a series of questions regarding their personal health and the health of those they have come into contact with and should include a temperature screening. This will take place prior to entering the rehearsal area.
- Options should be made available for remote learning which includes virtual lessons
- During practices and rehearsals, staff must ensure social distancing, hygiene, and safety measures are utilized at all times. Participants should be encouraged to wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- Hand-sanitizing stations should be available for students and staff
- There will be no shared food or water by students, staff, or parent volunteers
- Students are required to bring their own thermos or water bottle
- Students will adhere to a staggered entrance and exit procedure and no gatherings of any kind will be permitted

- Social Distancing should be in place 6' for still music, 3 step minimum interval for drill and conditioning. Georgia department of Public Health guidance should be followed.
- Indoor practices should be avoided if possible due to decreased air circulation
If indoor practices are conducted, students must still maintain a safe distance apart and all used surfaces must be sanitized immediately following their usage
- It is recommended that all students, in an indoor rehearsal, should stand to reduce the usage of chairs and possibly transmitting the virus
- All used equipment should be cleaned and sanitized immediately following each use and there will be no sharing of any equipment, instruments, or music of any kind
- Reed instruments are recommended to use plastic reeds to reduce saliva collection.
- Equipment may not be moved, handled, or utilized by multiple individuals
- Rehearsal time should be reduced and longer breaks should be included to allow contaminated air to dissipate
- Restroom access will be limited and constrained to emergency needs. Students should wash hands with soap for 20 seconds
- Student are not to congregate in the hallway outside the band room or in the B-building entryways
- If restrooms are available they should be used one student at a time and monitored by a sponsor
- An indoor facility that will allow social distancing guidelines to be maintained should be reserved in the event of inclement weather events
- If inclement weather is expected it is advised to cancel the rehearsal, therefore, eliminating the need for an indoor rehearsal
- It is highly recommended that students wear cloth masks when they are not performing on their instrument before, during and after rehearsal periods
- Directors, staff, parents, and any non-performing attendees of rehearsals are required to wear a cloth mask or an appropriate face covering while on site.
- Students are highly recommended to shower and change clothing once returning to their homes following a rehearsal
- Each student should have their own designated space for their instrument and equipment that is not shared with other students
- Maximum gathering size should not be in excess of the state allowable maximum participation limit for indoor and outdoor activities. Students will be divided into sections for indoor rehearsals to avoid maximum capacity during **Yellow Phase**.
- Students should rehearse in small pods of the same students for the duration of the rehearsal to limit exposure to large numbers of students in the event that large rehearsal space is unavailable.
 - *Persons per Sq. Foot*
- Practice rooms, band library, and instrument storage rooms are not to be used due to poor air circulation
- Band office will be off limits to all with the exception of the band director and band staff.
- Students should plan to leave campus immediately after the end of the days activities.

Fall / Football Games

- The use of uniforms is discouraged due to sweat not being ruled out as a possible transmitter of the COVID-19 virus and the possibility of multiple people handling the uniforms during distribution
- Band programs are recommended to dress their ensembles in alternate uniforms (i.e. matching polos or Dri-Fit shirts) that the students would keep and not check-in and out weekly
- Headgear of any kind (i.e. shakos, headdresses, ball caps) is discouraged due to increased sweating produced by their use and the increased need for students to touch their facial areas
- The use of gloves is discouraged as the cloth material could potentially pick up the COVID-19 virus from other surfaces and it prevents students from properly washing and sanitizing their hands throughout the day
- Students must maintain a minimum 3 to 4 step interval while on the football field and 6' while in the bleachers during games
- Transportation guidelines currently only recommend a maximum number of 14 students per bus which includes only one student per seat and skipping a seat in between students
- Transporting and loading equipment should be done on a one student per item basis. Students will load their equipment with proper supervision.

Implications based on the aforementioned guidelines

1. The New Manchester Band must operate on a 1:1 ratio when distributing instruments and equipment. All wind instruments that have not been assigned for marching season have been professionally cleaned and sanitized. Percussion equipment has been wiped down and cleaned.
2. The New Manchester Band enrollment far surpasses the allowable student participation limit for indoor gatherings. It is recommended that our summer camp utilizes a larger rehearsal space for ensemble gatherings to maintain proper distancing measures.
3. It is recommended that the New Manchester Band forego the use of a school-issued uniform this fall. The school-issued uniforms would cause the students to sweat and require a weekly cleaning fee that would not be financially feasible. The recommended use of the short set uniform is already utilized by the band for the first few football games due to high temperatures. The band wind suits is also a recommended option for cooler weather conditions. Uniform recommendations can be revisited if cleaning options become feasible. This procedure could be continued throughout the season.
4. It is recommended that the New Manchester Band forego the use of any headgear this season (headdresses and shakos) so that sweat is not transmitted between students and it reduces the practice of face touching.
5. Based on the CDC recommendation that a maximum number of 14 students can be allowed on a bus at one time, the New Manchester Band would require 8 to 10 buses to transport all of the students, staff members, parent chaperones, and equipment to away football games and band competitions. This large number of required buses is not a realistic request. Pending DCSS transportation protocol, it is recommended that the New Manchester Band suspend travel for the fall season.

6. The suspension of parade performances is recommended for the fall semester due to the inability to maintain a social distancing standard of six feet. This recommendation can be revisited later if Covid-19 conditions improve.
7. These conditions would not allow us to host the Jaguar Classing Marching Band Competition at New Manchester High School and we would be forced to cancel this year's event.

Sample New Manchester Marching Band Rehearsal Plan for Summer/Fall

- Students arrive at a designated time and remain in their vehicles until announced
- Students are required to have their own water bottle for rehearsal entry
- Students enter one at a time, receive a Q&A screening, and a temperature check
- Students rehearse for two 50-minute periods while maintaining a 6-foot distance from others
- Each 50-minute rehearsal period will be followed by a 10-minute break session
- Bathrooms will be opened for single-use and **water fountain usage will not be allowed**
 - Person to Sq. Footage
- Students will be dismissed one at a time, by section, to their vehicles at the conclusion of the rehearsal
- Any surfaces used throughout the rehearsal will be immediately cleaned
- Single-use of instruments and equipment will be required and usage of indoor facilities will be severely limited
- Performances of the band will be limited in scope due to the social distancing requirements and reduced instrumentation due depending on the event, but students will still be given a performance opportunity and a sense of normalcy
- NMHS Custodial Staff would be asked to assist with cleaning and sanitizing before the beginning of each rehearsal to provide a safe environment for students and staff members

Communication

It is important that open lines of communication are established as we enter this season. Please review the following points to make sure that no information is missed concerning the NMHS band program.

- Please make sure that you are signed on to the Band App for up to date communication from the band director, band staff, and band boosters.
- Make sure your email is updated in Charms to receive important info from the band director and boosters via mail.
- Parents please sign up for the parent group me as well to ensure that you receive information from multiple sources just in case you miss one.
- Add the band website to your bookmark bar.
 - www.nmhsbands.com