

Hello Lake Ridge Band families!

We hope that you are all staying safe and healthy during these unique times. As the first day of school approaches, we wanted to provide you with a bit more information regarding the weeks ahead. Some of this information is unchanged from my last communication on July 23rd. However, new information is also included.

>What is being done to keep the students and staff safe during outside marching band rehearsals?

With the continued concern centering around the COVID-19 pandemic, we are doing our absolute best to keep our students safe while providing them with a fun, challenging, and rewarding marching band experience by continuing to implement the following daily rehearsal safety measures:

1. Students and staff are required to complete, submit, and pass a COVID-19 symptom pre-screen questionnaire on each rehearsal day attended ([COVID-19 Pre-Screen Daily Symptom Questionnaire](#)). It is important that each person complete the questionnaire from home on each rehearsal day prior to traveling to campus. Those showing symptoms listed in the questionnaire should remain home. Those not completing the questionnaire prior to arriving on campus will be required to complete it at the check-in station prior to attending rehearsal.
2. We are rehearsing with smaller groups and fewer students each day in order to make the recommended social distancing allotments easily attainable. Though UIL has relaxed its distance recommendations, we are working to continue to maintain a minimum distance of 10 feet on all sides between each student during outside rehearsals. While not rehearsing and on water breaks, we stress and reinforce that students maintain 6 feet of separation on all sides.
3. Students and staff are required to wear masks at all times, except when drinking water during breaks.
4. Currently, we are only rehearsing outdoors.
5. Hand sanitizer is provided for each student at check-in and throughout the rehearsal itself.
6. Students are only permitted to use the restroom one at a time.
7. Musical instrument specific PPE has been ordered by MISD, including bell covers for each instrument and specialized masks, commonly known as "blow-hole" masks, which will allow each student to wear a protective mask that is designed to also allow instrument performance. As soon as these items arrive, they will be distributed to each student at no charge.

For more information on the MISD's safety protocols specifically designed for marching band rehearsals, please refer to the information provided by accessing the links below:

[COVID-19 MISD Summer Band Rehearsal Policies and Procedures](#)
[Prescreener Flow Chart](#)
[LRHS Campus Map](#)

>With all students starting the year remotely, have adjustments been made to the weekly marching band rehearsal schedule?

Yes. Between Monday, August 17th and Friday, September 4th, marching rehearsals will be held in the evenings from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Here are the benefits of this rehearsal time adjustment:

1. As opposed to our normal daily after school rehearsal time of 3:45pm-6:15pm, this rehearsal time adjustment will allow those students whose parents work during the day, an opportunity for safe transportation to campus for rehearsal.
2. At the onset of our season, the temperatures are generally cooler in the early evening as opposed to the mid-afternoon, making wearing a mask throughout outdoor rehearsals more comfortable.
3. This adjusted rehearsal time will allow students between two and two and a half hours to complete or at least begin homework assignments between the end of the school day and the beginning of rehearsal.
4. This adjusted rehearsal time will also allow students a prolonged opportunity for tutorials, as needed, and/or athletic practices.

Please see the marching band rehearsal schedule below for more specific information regarding rehearsal days and times for each part of our group. A campus map is also provided for check-in door location. We will reevaluate this rehearsal schedule prior to the start of in-person classes on September 8th.

[Marching Rehearsal Schedule from August 10th-September 4th](#)
[LRHS Campus Map](#)

Please note that in order for the directors to accurately make plans for the marching season, the marching show will only be written by our drill writer for those students who regularly attend rehearsals. Our goal is to provide all students who regularly attend rehearsals the opportunity to perform.

>Do all students need to complete a Medical History Form and Pre-Participation Physical Exam Form again this year?

All students need to complete the [Medical History Form](#) every year. Any participant in athletics or marching band, in any grade level, who has not previously completed a [Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation \(PPE\)](#), and been cleared for participation, will be required to complete the Medical History Form as noted above, as well as a PPE prior to participation in any UIL practices, games, performances, or matches.

All students are required to complete and return the required forms prior to active participation. Completed forms may be returned to the band directors via [email](#) or delivered to the band directors on the first day of rehearsal. Until the required forms are completed and returned, students will not be permitted to participate in outdoor marching activities. Again, the required forms can be found at this link: [Medical History Form and Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation](#)

>May students arrive early to or stay late at the band hall on rehearsal days?

Whenever possible, students will need to arrive to campus just prior to their check-in time and leave campus upon the completion of their rehearsal. All of the directors will be engaged in rehearsals throughout the day, leaving no one available to supervise students who are not actively rehearsing. However, a director is typically on campus 30 minutes prior to rehearsal check-in times and will remain on campus until 30 minutes following the conclusion of a rehearsal or 5:00pm, whichever is latest. Please note that students are not to remain within the school building for any extended amount of time, restroom use excluded.

>To when has the Band Student Registration Day been moved?

Saturday, August 29th. More details about that specific day will be communicated to everyone as they are finalized.

>Will we have a marching season?

Yes, with the safety, health, and wellbeing of our students at the forefront of our minds, we are planning a marching season. Exactly what the marching season looks like is still to be seen. However, all possible safety precautions are being employed and all UIL protocols are being employed.

>Will we be attending football games?

We have not yet received specific information regarding our attendance at, role within, or transportation to/from football games. At this point, we are making plans to attend and perform at football games with recommended social distancing policies in place for while we are at the game and for transportation to and from the game. Once we receive specific information regarding how this will all work, we will let everyone know.

>Will we be attending marching contests?

Details regarding our attendance at marching contests are still being discussed by administration. With regards to this, the safety of our students will again be the top priority. More information regarding this will be shared as it becomes available.

>What will remote learning band classes look like once school begins on August 12th?

Students should receive an email or other notification regarding how to sign-in and participate within their band classes prior to Tuesday, August 11th. We are in the process of finalizing this information and will send it out as soon as it is ready.

>Can MISD Virtual Academy students travel to campus and participate in after school activities?

YES! We want all of our students to remain active within our program. MISD Virtual Academy students, regardless of their decision to attend or to not attend in-person band classes, are permitted and encouraged to participate in all after school activities effective immediately.

>Will a revised band performance calendar be provided to us?

Yes. I have only recently received a draft copy of the proposed football schedule. As soon as I am able to confidently create a revised calendar, I will communicate it with everyone.

I understand that this is a lot of information to digest all at one time. However, I wanted to give you as much information as possible at this point of this ever-changing situation. After you have read through all of the information, please contact me via email with any questions that you may have, and I will do my best to provide accurate answers to your questions as soon as I am able.

Sincerely,
[Brad Bonebrake](#)
Director of Bands, Lake Ridge High School