

Dear Parents,

I'm getting a few questions regarding online learning and how that will work with beginner band instruction. Here are my thoughts in managing the course.

Online Learning

At the time of writing this email, CCISD is planning on doing both "Brick & Mortar" learning and "Clear Connections," the online academy. If enrolling in Brick and Mortar, band will be a normal schedule with CDC recommend guidelines such as social distancing, wearing masks when able, scheduling accommodated passing periods, etc. If enrolling in Clear Connections, your child will be enrolled in a virtual course that is scheduled to be taught at the end of the day and will be taught by one of the 20 CCISD intermediate band directors according to their instrument specialty. Depending on what instrument your child plays, we may or may not be the teacher of that course, but we will be involved in what is being taught. The curriculum and structure has not been discussed, but I will send updates as I get them.

In the event that we transition to online learning, I recommend that you purchase a decent USB microphone/ camera to assist your child's technology accessibility. Though the student laptops contain mics and cameras, they tend to malfunction regularly and preparing now will help your kids in the long-run.

How to Manage Band at Home

Being in front of a teacher will always be the best option for optimized learning and virtual learning will always present challenges. Because of that, it is important that parents structure their kids time and maintain a schedule for practice and music learning. My suggestions would be to make sure that students have a regularly set time everyday for practice (ex. 5:00pm-5:30pm, 30 minutes before dinner, etc.) and that parents monitor the content that their kids are supposed to practice. These practices do not substitute class/ private lessons and are an addition to what is being taught (ie. homework). Now, more than ever, is the best time to enroll in private lessons if possible. All private lessons are being done virtually until further notice and if you are interested please contact myself or Mr. Macias for our instructor's contact information.

REMINDER OF THE INSTRUMENT PLACEMENTS

Monday, July 20 @10am-12pm: Kit pick up OR

Tuesday, July 21 @ 12pm-1pm: Kit pick up

- Instrument Mouthpiece Pickup for Virtual Placement
- Pick up in the front of the school (518 parking lot)
- You will get a scheduled interview time

Wednesday, July 22-Thursday July 23 @ 4-6pm: Zoom meetings with band directors

- Virtual ZOOM meeting with a band director for instrument selection
- You will get your appointment upon mouthpiece kit pick up

Friday, July 24 @ 10am-12pm: Instrument kit drop off

- Mouthpiece Return – drop in the bucket in the front of the school (518 parking lot)

Monday, July 27 @ 9-11am: Percussion fittings (for those interested in percussion, must sign up)

- Percussion Tryout held in the front of school (enter and park on 518 parking lot)
- Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050544ACA62CA7FA7-creekside1>

Brick & Mortar or Clear Connections Google Survey

To help us plan curriculum and class structure for the school year we are asking that you click the link below and fill out the 2-question google survey. Thank you.

<https://forms.gle/XviTSZdqm8EJyeRUA>

I know this is an unsettling time for all of us and the policies set forth by the country, state, county, and district are changing every few days. We are working hard to come up with a plan that will keep your kids safe, as well as give them a quality education.

Thank you so much for your patience.