

## Final 2020 Band Camp Letter

Welcome back to band! While we are still not sure what that will look like in a month, we are excited to get back to playing music! Please read over this information, get your forms in order, and get ready to get the dust off of your instruments and guard equipment. Hopefully you still know where they are!

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### I. Changes

Due to all of the Covid restrictions, and the unknowns, we will most likely not be competing this year. Instead, we have a great ½ time show ready to enjoy that will be fun for us and the crowd! There is still a slight chance that there may be Fall competitions and we could take this show to those as well, but it is not looking hopeful as we talk to other schools and bands about their festivals. There have already been cancellations made and I feel there will be many more to follow. However, this will allow us to play some music we would not usually get to do and we can add some other fun things into our show that would normally not happen in a competitive show.

During band camp, we will be focusing mostly on music in small group settings. We have decided to go back to small group instruction in smaller blocks of time like we had originally planned. We feel this will be the safest and most effective way to reach our goals this year. Please check the rehearsal schedule so you know when you need to be at the school. Along with this, we will be using our leaders to work with students in various new ways to supplement the shorter rehearsal times.

Full disclosure, it is well within reason to consider that we may not even have a Fall marching season of any kind. If this were to happen, our plans would not change much. We will focus on music making! We will know more before the end of July and until then, I do not have many answers for anything that happens when school starts. In the meantime, let's get started making some fun music and memories! To Quote Hamilton, "Isn't it great to be alive right now!" This may not be the year we hoped for, but we can make it a great year nonetheless!

### II. **Schedule** (All camps for winds and percussion are at the HS, and Guard is in the elementary gym)

#### A. Leadership and Specialty Camps (guard and percussion)

1. Monday July 27 Percussion 9am-11:30am, New Leaders 1pm-4pm  
Guard 9am-11:30am and 1pm-4pm

2. Tuesday July 28 Percussion 9am-11:30am, Returning Leaders 1pm-4pm  
Guard 9am-11:30am and 1pm-4pm
3. Wednesday July 29 Percussion 9am-11:30am, New Leaders 1pm-4pm  
Guard 9am-11:30am and 1pm-4pm
4. Thursday July 30 Percussion 9am-11:30am, Returning Leaders  
1pm-4pm Guard 9am-11:30am and 1pm-4pm
5. Friday July 31 Percussion 9am-11:30am, All Leadership 1-4pm  
Guard 9am-11:30am and 1pm-4pm

B. August 3-7, 10-14 All Band Members (Full Camp)

1. 8:00am-10:00am Flutes, Altos/Mello, Trumpets
2. 10:30am-12:30pm All Percussion
3. 1:30pm- 3:30pm Clarinets, Low Reeds/Tuba, Trombone/Baritone
4. Guard 8:00am-3:30pm with an hour lunch break

C. Night Rehearsals (All Members)

1. August 18, 20, 25, and 27 6pm-8pm
2. Every Thursday Night from 6pm-8pm (As long as we have football games)

D. Morning Rehearsals:

We will start morning band rehearsals at 7:30am on school days. This could change depending on how covid guidelines go. If we have a competitive season, we will start at 7am. If we don't have football, we will just have a normal 1st hour. Currently, students are enrolled in a zero hour, but if we do not need this extra time, we will eliminate that class.

E. Performances:

We will play at all home Friday night football games and any community functions we are asked to do. We are not planning on Saturday competitions and there is not going to be a Grape and Fall Festival this year.

### III. Procedures

A. Arrival:

Come 10 minutes before your shift: Bring your instrument with you. Do not use your locker. This Includes Drumline. Pit will move their equipment forwards from the back of the band room one piece at a time while maintaining S.D..

B. Departure:

Students will take all of their equipment with them. No locker usage. They need to pack up and leave maintaining S.D. Pit needs to put their items in the back of the band room one piece at a time and leave maintaining S.D. Battery also

needs to leave with their equipment if possible. We may try to figure something out if a student can't fit their equipment in their vehicle. Students are to leave the premises immediately, not loiter in the parking lot or go hang out together.

C. Indoor Rehearsals:

Students will be in small groups of 9 or less sitting or standing in rows maintaining S.D. and facing the same direction. Masks will be worn when not rehearsing. Percussion and guard are to wear masks at all times.

D. Outdoor Rehearsals:

We will continue to practice S.D. and masks are to be worn if we are not playing. Percussion and guard are to wear masks at all times.

E. Health Precautions:

1. Spread students out in the rehearsal space. At least 6 foot in all directions, more when possible. All students need to face the same direction in a straight line if possible.
2. Attendance will be taken at every rehearsal/meeting
3. Teachers are to wear masks indoors unless playing an instrument. Teachers are to maintain S.D. of 6' or more. If playing with students, play in the same direction they are and maintain S.D.
4. All chairs and stands need to be sanitized after each rehearsal.
5. Students are to use a personal condensation collector that is thrown away at the end of rehearsal.
6. **ABSOLUTELY NO INSTRUMENT/EQUIPMENT SHARING**
7. Students need to spray their mouthpieces and head joints before and after every rehearsal.
8. Students need to bring their own water bottles. No community fountains will be available and no sharing is allowed.
9. Follow arrival and departure guidelines
10. Take temps before entering the room
11. Take attendance including anywhere students go while on premises. Students should not leave their assigned areas without permission from a director.
12. If you are not feeling well in any way, **DO NOT COME TO CAMP**. Send us an email and let your section leader know. This includes; sinus headaches, sore throat, upset stomach, headache, fever, or lack of energy, BUT any symptoms should keep you home.

F. We will follow school guidelines/procedures if we have any possible covid infections.

#### IV. The Music!

We get to do some fun music that the audience and students will have a blast with. We will open our show with the **Queen Opener** that includes "Bohemian Rhapsody", "We will Rock You", and "Another One Bites the Dust", Our second piece is "**Cupid Shuffle**" and we hope to get the audience up on their feet

dancing and we will try to get other school groups to join us on the field. The third number is Radio Head's "**Creep**" and our closer is "**Whip It**"! You can find recordings to all of these at [jwpepper.com](http://jwpepper.com) or [midwestsheetmusic.com](http://midwestsheetmusic.com).

V. **Attendance:** All rehearsals and performances are graded projects for the band and therefore are mandatory. This includes night rehearsals, concerts, morning rehearsals and any music events we take part in. Make sure to give the directors at least 3 weeks notice for any possible conflicts. If you have another school conflict, the band staff and coaches or other staff will work it out so you know what to do.

VI. **Grades:** We grade a performance product in band. This includes daily playing/marching, concerts, playing tests, memory tests, etc. We do not grade participation and a student's grade should be representative of their performance in band but this includes students being aware of what skills they need to improve and making steps to improve them. All students can earn a high grade regardless of talent. We ask that students reflect on their performance level and make plans to improve their abilities.

## VII. **Business Items**

### A. Permissions:

Each student should have the school's permission form completed and turned in to participate with camp. It is attached to the Final Band Camp Email.

### B. Band Fee:

With the expectation we won't be competing this year, we will be cutting the band fee in half to \$50. This will cover the band T-shirt, repair and maintenance, uniform maintenance, marching shoes, and general costs of running a band program. Please make checks payable to St. James Band Boosters **NOT St. James Schools**

### C. Physicals:

Students are not required to get a new physical this year if they had one on file last year, BUT you do need to fill out the last 3 pages of the physical form. These are due at your arrival at full camp. If you did not have a physical on file last year, you will need to get one. If you can't get one before camp, at least get the last 3 pages filled out and returned and schedule your physical ASAP.

### D. Instrument Usage Agreement:

Any student that uses a school instrument will need to have an Instrument Usage Agreement on file with the band directors. There is no cost to use the instrument, but you are responsible for all damage/repair bills that are a result of your usage of the instrument. We will fill these out on the first day of camp and should be returned ASAP.

Parent/Student Acknowledgement:

*I have read and understand the material for participating in band for the 2020 Fall Season contained in the Final Band Camp Letter. If I have any questions, concerns or problems, I will contact the appropriate director in a timely manner to work it out.*

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

This acknowledgement is due with your physical forms, band fee, school permission, and instrument usage agreement the first day you have camp. If you need more time on the band fee, you will need to bring a letter on the first day you have camp that explains your needs. Students may not be able to continue into the school year if they have not paid their fee and turned in all of their forms.

I'm looking forward to an interesting year. I'm sure no matter what it will be memorable and I'm proud to get to experience all of this craziness with the best band people in the world!

Your Band Director,

Derek Limback