

Dear Kimpton families,

As we eagerly start this school year, I would like to take a moment to communicate some safety procedures that have been put in place this year pertaining to band and COVID-19. Our goal is always to provide a safe learning environment for all of our students.

Social Distancing: Chairs placed 6 ft apart in our band room

Masking: Masks off only when playing band instruments, masks on when not playing
Percussionists wear masks all of the time

Equipment: Personal instruments – none will be shared
Assigned Chairs- same student uses same chair M T or TH, F
Assigned Music Stand- same student uses same M T or TH, F

Materials: Personal music / Personal folders / Personal Music Stands

Sanitizing Area: Band room will be sanitized by custodial staff every evening

Instrument Storage

Our current instrument storage area will not be utilized during the beginning of the school year until further notice. All individual cases/ instruments will be stored in front of child's personal chair space /or on person

Disinfecting instruments

1. All students who own (or borrow) have their own instrument for personal use.
2. All students will have their own mouthpiece.

Students will have time to wash hands and clean instruments after class

Students will need to provide

- *Personal rubbing **alcohol/sterisol sprayers** for daily mouthpiece disinfecting (these are available at all local music stores)
- *Personal **water droplet towel** for emptying water
- *Personal cleaning swab for cleaning instrument daily
- *Personal **Mallets** purchased by percussion students (see links below for purchasing options)

Performance possibilities

Video Recorded performance in gym socially distanced and shared with parents
Limited audience members

Traffic Patterns for band area

Students will enter/ exit over a 10-minute transition period to provide social distancing

Covid-19 and Band FAQs

Is Playing a Wind Instrument Safe Right Now?

We too, have had these thoughts, concerns, and conversations since March. However, we are fortunate to have several universities complete studies that have helped answer this question. The University of Colorado continues to do the most research on this. You can watch their lengthy videos online that go into further detail. For a quick reference, this video does a great job of showing the aerosol trajectory and low risk of playing an instrument:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsLHFwtpABU>

How close will my student be sitting from another student during band class?

As we all know, 6 feet is the recommended distance. In our hybrid plan, we will be able to have band classes with between 6-8 feet spacing to provide even more safety.



How do students keep their instrument clean?

This is no different than any other year. It is important to practice good maintenance and routine cleanings on your instrument. Each year, we show students the proper way to swab out and clean their instrument. However, it is more important than ever to make sure your student has the following:

Cleaning swab for for all woodwind instruments



Cleaning rod for flute players



All students will need to purchase and carry in their case sterilol, magic mist, or mint-t-mist for daily mouthpiece cleaning. All of these items can be purchased at any local music store (Central Instrument Company, Woodsys, Soundboard, Front Street Music, etc.) or online.



In order to keep percussion safe, percussion students will be required to use their own mallets and drumsticks for all instruments. Here is a link for two great options.

<https://www.steveweissmusic.com/product/stick-pack/stick-mallet-pack>

<https://www.steveweissmusic.com/product/vic-firth-ep2-stick-pack/stick-mallet-pack>

What about wearing a mask?

All students will wear a mask at all times unless playing. Percussion will wear a mask throughout the class time. The requirement and procedure is to pull the mask up and down immediately before and after playing. As seen in the video above, little to no air is released through the instrument. This is with the exception of flute players. Flute players will need to purchase a flute shield. Our high school students have used these throughout marching band season this summer and they are very effective and affordable. These can be purchased at the following website: www.fluteairshield.com.