

July 14, 2020

FBISD Marching Band Families,

With the steady increase in COVID-19 virus cases in our community during the recent weeks, and with the safety of our students as our greatest concern, Fort Bend ISD will offer online instruction only for all students at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. The decision to begin the school year online will affect extracurricular activities during the remainder of the summer and early fall semester. To mitigate the risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus, students will not engage in marching band practices, rehearsals, or performances during the remainder of the summer break or while students are attending classes in a fully online format during the fall semester.

Given this current, unprecedented situation, our District's leaders and Fine Arts teachers collectively made the difficult decision to engage in a non-competitive marching band season this fall. As you are well aware, undertaking a competitive marching season involves significant amounts of time, planning, energy, volunteer hours, and funding – from the District budget, booster club funds, and individual parent contributions. We take the investment of these resources very seriously and believe it is in the best interest of our students, their families, and our communities to provide a marching experience that will allow all students to participate safely. Many of our band programs have planned elaborate marching shows for the upcoming season and will postpone these productions until the 2021 season.

While we are devastated our amazing marching bands will not compete this year, our band directors and administrators strongly believe marching is an essential component of the high school band curriculum. We will develop creative plans to provide the best possible experience to our students considering the current health crisis. While we eagerly await guidelines from the Texas Education Agency and the University Interscholastic League (UIL) regarding marching band performances at high school football games, students can anticipate some form of marching band performance opportunity during the fall semester.

At this time, the District is canceling all face-to-face marching band practices for the remainder of the summer break and during the fall semester when the District is offering instruction in an online-only format. Students still may rehearse in a virtual format using online communication platforms. Fort Bend ISD will continue to monitor the situation, listen to the guidance of local health officials, and remain flexible throughout the fall semester. Our excellent staff will devote their time and energy to our band students, providing them with alternate outlets for musical expression and opportunities to meet their social-emotional needs through camaraderie with the band community, all while remaining committed to our highest responsibility – assuring our students' health, safety, and wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued support of the Arts in FBISD and your patient understanding as we work to provide our students opportunities for self-expression while keeping them as safe and healthy as possible.

Kind Regards,



Jim Drew  
Director of Fine Arts  
Fort Bend ISD