

**Return to Rehearsal and Practice
Guidelines
for
Richland County School District One
Marching Band Courses
2020-2021 School Year**

Guiding Statement

The guidelines that follow are provided in an attempt to ensure the safety and health of students, faculty and staff involved in marching band classes, rehearsals and practices. These guidelines have been compiled using the *South Carolina Band Directors Association's Guidelines for Return to Summer Ensemble Rehearsals* (June 2, 2020), the *Richland One Athletics Return to Practice Document* based on the SC School Athletics League Guidelines (June 2020 plus latest updates per the District Athletics Director as of August 19, 2020) and the *Prioritizing Health and Safety in Richland One's Visual and Performing Arts Classroom Recommendations* (June 23, 2020). Considerations also have been given to surrounding school districts' guidelines as well as guidelines from other states.

Guidelines, specific procedures and directives will require modifications to former protocols to ensure best practices for the safety of students and adults based on individual school marching band staff size as well as classroom/available space.

**Note:* The Office of Visual and Performing Arts will continue to work with district, local and state officials to determine any potential modifications.

Waivers

Richland County School District One marching band waivers will be required of all parents of students and marching band volunteers involved in marching band before any in-person contact with students occurs.

General Guidelines for Marching Band In-Person Rehearsals and Practices

In order to safely engage in arts education within the school-based environment, all participants (teachers, volunteers and students) must individually and collectively participate in the core and content-specific recommendations that follow.

1. Any participant (teacher, volunteer or student) who is sick should stay home.
2. All participants must practice physical distancing of at least six feet.
3. Cohorts (groups of the same students) should be established and rehearse together, as well as kept separated from other cohorts until it is confirmed by the District that it is safe to rehearse en masse.
4. Flexible and creative scheduling should be utilized by band directors and administrators to reduce or eliminate crossover of cohorts.
5. The movement of directors and staff between cohorts of students to teach is not recommended. If possible, the band director should physically distance to oversee separate cohorts that are each working with assistant staff (where assistant marching band staff is available).
6. Classes should be held outdoors, except in periods of inclement weather. Rehearsals should be conducted in cohorts with the same group of students always rehearsing together in dedicated rehearsal spaces. In the event of inclement weather during Phase 1, students may rehearse inside the building with cohorts practicing in different spaces (e.g., one cohort in band room, one cohort in cafeteria, one cohort in the theatre, etc.). Cohorts should take breaks at different times to ensure social distancing.
7. All necessary cleaning materials and sanitization items should be provided to teachers, including, but not limited to, masks, disinfectant wipes and sprays, buckets or cans containing isopropyl alcohol (70% for water key dump site).
8. Hands should be washed frequently (20 seconds with soap and water) or sanitized with a sanitizer that meets safety standards.

9. Objects (such as keyboards and phones) and surfaces (such as door knobs, handrails and work stations) should be cleaned and disinfected regularly. Unnecessary frequently touched surfaces, such as trash can lids, should be removed.
10. Masks must be worn by students and staff at all times, except in the case of wind instrument players. Wind instrument players must wear masks unless they are actively playing their instrument. Percussion, color guard, dancers and all auxiliary groups must wear masks at all times. All adults must wear masks at all times.
11. Wind instruments may not be shared.
12. Appropriate sanitization procedures must be implemented to ensure equipment, instruments or materials that must be shared, such as mallets and flags, are sanitized after each rehearsal/practice. However, best practice would reflect each individual having access to his/her own mallet, stick, flag, etc.
13. At the point students are able to practice/rehearse inside the building, avoid the use of soft surfaces such as cloth-covered chairs or area rugs that are difficult to clean or disinfect. This is especially important for students playing wind instruments.
14. Waivers from parents of marching band students and marching band volunteers will be required for marching band participation.
15. If live school performances are permitted, they may be streamed online without live audiences. The band director, working in collaboration with his/her school administration and appropriate district entities, is responsible for obtaining appropriate licensure for any online posting of performances to the public. Physical distancing protocols as directed by the local and state health departments and good instrumental hygiene practices will be followed by student performers. No live performances will be permitted without district approval.
16. Virtual public performances must adhere to FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) regulations.
17. Virtual public performances should not be an expectation, as they require time-consuming audio/video editing. Teachers may not have access to necessary software or the training needed to create virtual performance utilizing specialized software.

Guidelines for Band Ensemble Rehearsals and Practices

1. All general recommendations for in-person rehearsals and practices will be followed as outlined in pages 3-4.
2. The intent of the recommendations for marching band is alignment with the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) Phase 1.5 expectations for returning to athletics while integrating best practices for returning to instrumental practice/rehearsal as presented by the South Carolina Music Education Association (SCMEA) and the South Carolina Band Directors Association (SCBDA).
3. At-home individual music rehearsal expectations of students must be clearly outlined in the course syllabus.
4. Attendance at practices and rehearsals must be taken for marching band credit-bearing courses. The local context of COVID-19 obstacles such as transportation, illness or other unforeseen circumstances, must be taken into consideration. District guidelines will be followed.
5. All directors, staff and students should be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to each rehearsal. This includes temperature checks and completion of the screening questionnaire.
6. Directors and assistant directors must utilize the Richland One COVID-19 Self-Screening Tool posted on the Richland One Intranet.
7. Responses to the screening questions should be recorded and reported daily to the principal or his/her designee in the event a director, staff member or student develops COVID-19. Recordkeeping must ensure privacy and confidentiality of all participants.
8. If a director, staff member or student has a temperature of 100.4 or greater, or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the rehearsal and will be sent home immediately; district protocol must be followed for return.
9. Taking into consideration that rehearsal spaces vary among schools, special attention should be given to ensure proper physical distancing of students and staff.

10. Rehearsals (while the District is operating in Phase 1 of the Reopening of Schools Plan) will be conducted outdoors, except in inclement weather.
11. Storage and changing rooms should not be utilized. Students and staff should report to rehearsals in proper gear/attire. Students will be encouraged to wash their rehearsal attire immediately upon returning home.
12. Rehearsals should be conducted in cohorts with the same group of students always rehearsing together in dedicated rehearsal spaces. In the event of inclement weather during Phase 1, students may rehearse inside the building with cohorts practicing in different spaces (e.g., one cohort in band room, one cohort in cafeteria, one cohort in the theatre, etc.). Cohorts should take breaks at different times to ensure social distancing.
13. There should be no carpooling to or from rehearsals. Small groups must be aware not to mix with other groups.
14. Sanitization stations should be available to all participants throughout rehearsals.
15. Directors will teach and routinely review proper instrument hygiene with all marching band students.
16. Best practice includes no sharing of materials and equipment (mallets and sticks and color guard equipment). However, if instruments, equipment and sheet music must be shared, they must be properly cleaned and disinfected between use by students who are sharing them.
17. Individuals will be expected to bring their own water bottle to each rehearsal and not share their bottle with anyone. Water bottles should be labeled with the student's first and last name.
18. Cleaning schedules will be created and implemented for all facilities to ensure Building Services staff members have adequate time for cleaning rehearsal spaces after rehearsals have ended.
19. Students must be taught COVID-19 instrument cleaning guidelines and be required to clean their instruments regularly. This requirement must be communicated to students and parents.

20. Students must demonstrate and model appropriate safety precautions at all times including hand washing, instrument sanitizing, social distancing and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
21. Members of the public will not be allowed at practices/rehearsals. Only staff and district-approved volunteers will be allowed at practices.