



FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT
RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Where all students connect, learn, grow and succeed.

RISD Marching Band Families,

After meeting with Richardson ISD's high school band directors, and with the safety of our students as our greatest concern, we have made the difficult decision that our students will not participate in a competitive marching band season this fall, due to concerns of the substantial and growing community spread of COVID-19 in Dallas County and also the uncertainty associated with how or if marching competitions will be held as we progress through the unknowns of the fall.

As you are aware, undertaking a competitive marching season involves significant amounts of time, planning, energy, and fundraising. We take the investment of these resources very seriously, and believe it is in the best interest of our schools, families, and students to provide a marching experience that we can be sure will safely allow all students to participate.

While we are devastated that our incredible bands will not compete this year, kids will still march, and we have been working hard to develop a plan to give our students the best possible experience considering the current health crisis. Each high school will still produce a marching show, though it will be significantly shorter in length and include a number of measures intended to ensure student safety. We are eagerly awaiting information from the Texas Education Agency and University Interscholastic League with guidelines regarding marching bands presence at football games, but students can be assured of some form of marching band performance opportunity.

Summer Band camp calendars will be available in the coming days for each of our respective programs with guidelines in place for student safety. Students will rehearse in smaller groups and maintain appropriate distancing at all times, even while marching. Masks will be mandatory for all band members, to be worn when not actively practicing or performing. Rehearsal attendance will be voluntary, and a virtual rehearsal option will be made available to students who cannot attend in person.

Richardson ISD Fine Arts will continue to monitor the situation, listen to the guidance of local health officials, and adjust our plan throughout the fall. We will keep devoting our time and energy to our student-musicians, providing them with outlets for expression and opportunities for camaraderie with friends and the band community, all while staying committed to our highest responsibility – assuring our students' health, safety, and well-being.

Individual directors will have more details to share in the coming weeks, but we look forward to seeing our amazing students for Summer Band very soon.

Thank you for your support and understanding as we work to provide students with predictable and stable fine arts opportunities while keeping them as safe and healthy as possible.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bradford
Executive Director of Fine Arts
Richardson ISD