

Eastern High School Comet Command

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BACK TO BAND

OUR PLAN FOR BRINGING BACK THE COMET COMMAND

Overview

The Comet Command – Directors, Staff, Members, and Parents – must be 100% unified in both personal health and safety and the health and safety of those around them in order to work toward a fun, safe marching band season.

While no person can ever guarantee any health condition for another person, we MUST be united in doing absolutely everything we can to mitigate as many risks as possible in order to protect each other in our organization as well as those we love outside the Eastern Band.

5-Tier Approach

Our 5-Tier Approach to a safe marching band season includes things everyone must do to minimize risks associated with the COVID-19 virus. All of these requirements, techniques, and strategies are to be considered 100% mandatory for all members and all parents or family members who will be present on school grounds or come in direct contact with band members through the season.

Our approach is designed to fit within the guidelines for Co-Curricular activities presented in Eastern's Safe & Healthy Return to School Plan. Some band expectations may go above and beyond those presented in the school-wide plan due to guidance from ISSMA or NFHS.

1. AT-HOME PRECAUTIONS

a. Being Prepared for Rehearsal

- i. **ALL STUDENTS MUST BRING A MASK OR OTHER APPROPRIATE FACE COVERING TO EVERY REHEARSAL**
- ii. Band members should to bring a FILLED reusable water container to rehearsal. School water fountains will be shut off (except for bottle fillers). Members will not share water bottles at any time.
- iii. **Containers must be clearly marked with student name.** 1-gallon or ½-gallon insulated water coolers are available at local retailers for < \$10.
- iv. Water jugs will not be left in the Band Room at the end of a rehearsal. All water jugs will go home daily to be cleaned and refilled.
- v. Students should bring their own sunscreen and apply it frequently through the day. Sunscreen will not be shared between students (with the exception of siblings that live in the same household).
- vi. Students must wear clean clothes to all rehearsals.

b. Illness Awareness

- i. Please understand this very important duality regarding personal illness:
 1. **FAILURE** to correctly report an illness in order to participate in a performance or rehearsal puts every band member, every staff member, and everyone those people come in contact with at risk.
 2. **FALSELY** reporting an illness in order to skip a performance, rehearsal, or other band event negatively affects the whole group. It also risks the possibility of being quarantined for a period of up to 14 days or two consecutive negative COVID-19 tests

In other words...be VERY open & honest about feeling sick!!

2. PRE-REHEARSAL STRATEGIES (July 20 - Aug 14)

- a. Members should not arrive for rehearsal more than 20 minutes prior to rehearsal start time.
- b. Band Staff will wear face coverings inside Eastern High School. Students should wear face coverings inside the school building if social distancing is not possible.
- c. All members will be pre-screened by directors before entering the building for each rehearsal, performance, sectional, or other meeting. Pre-screening will be done as to not violate student confidentiality. Directors and Staff will wear face coverings while pre-screening.

Parents should wait in the parking lot after drop-off until their student has been successfully screened.

- d. Parent volunteers and other helpers may not be present inside the building until August 15. Students and staff are the only members of our band allowed inside.
- e. Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19 info will be present in rehearsal locations.
- f. Equipment that will be used for rehearsal must be pre-cleaned before use.

3. REHEARSAL PLAN (July 20 - Aug 14)

- a. All students and staff will be trained on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- b. Breaks will be given at 2-hour rehearsal intervals or sooner if determined by staff.
- c. Outside rehearsal areas will be sought whenever possible. (Wear sunscreen!)
- d. Face coverings are optional when outdoors at socially-distanced intervals.
- e. Indoor rehearsal spaces may be used at 50% capacity.
- f. Directors and Staff will break students into smaller sections and subsections for all indoor activities and most outdoor music activities.

- g. Students and staff should maintain social distance at all times.
- h. Students must maintain 6' distance when playing instruments. Wind instruments should never be pointed in the direction of another student.
- i. Areas of the building to be used for rehearsal are limited to: Band Room, Choir Room, Orchestra Room, Auditorium, Auditorium Lobby, Gyms (if available)
- j. ABSOLUTELY NO SHARING of water jugs, water bottles, sunscreen, or clothing.
- k. Students may bring their own snacks to rehearsal. Snacks and other food should not be shared with other band members.
- l. Students who feel sick during rehearsal will be immediately removed from activities and sent home. Any student who needs to "sit out" of rehearsal longer than 15 minutes without a doctor's note of explanation will be considered to be sick. Parent communication will be required prior to that student's next screening.

4. END OF REHEARSAL STRATEGIES (July 20 - Aug 14)

- a. Spectators are not allowed at Eastern High School until August 15. Parents should not arrive and plan to sit in cars to watch rehearsal. Please arrive no earlier than 15 minutes before the end of rehearsal to pick up students.
- b. Every piece of equipment will be cleaned daily by the student that used it. Cleaning materials will be provided. Additional cleaning or polishing materials may be used by members.
 - i. Brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments will be wiped down by the player using cleaning wipes that will not damage the instruments
 - ii. Brass and woodwind mouthpieces will be cleaned by the player using Sterisol or Steri-Spray instrument-safe germicidal solution.
 - iii. Color Guard equipment will be wiped down with applicable cleaning wipes by Color Guard members.

- c. Students should shower and launder clothing when they arrive at home.
- d. Areas used by band members indoors will be documented by band staff and disinfected by EHSC Custodial Staff prior to next use.

5. VOLUNTEERING TO HELP (July 20 - Aug 14)

- a. NO volunteers, parent committees & crews, or other visitors are allowed at rehearsal or inside our school building until August 15 with the exception of approved, screened volunteers who are prepping the concession stand.

COVID PRECAUTIONS FOR BAND INSTRUMENTS:

FLUTES will be required to wear face shields when playing indoors.

REED PLAYERS will need to sanitize hands after touching your reed. Every time.

BRASS INSTRUMENTS will be required to use bell covers both indoors and outside.
Puppy pads will be used to empty water keys indoors.

PERCUSSION will have one instrument assigned to one player for the entire season.
There will be no sharing of instruments, sticks, or mallets.

By committing to these rules and guidelines, we also commit to doing our very best at all times to keep all of our fellow Band members, Directors, Staff, and all of the friends, families, and contacts associated with those people as safe as possible, not to mention comfortable with being a member of a large group during this pandemic.