



Southmoore Instrument Arts Program COVID-19 Quarantine Distance Learning Information

Distance Learning General Information

On April 6, Moore Public Schools began their distance learning curriculum. The first week has been devoted to students becoming familiar with Canvas, our online platform for delivering instruction and a host of other functions. The following five weeks are dedicated to learning opportunities directly from your teachers.

Band is a class that is mostly centered around group activities such as rehearsals and performances. However, we also will provide assignments that can be done alone during this time. Certainly, individual practice is the fundamental of learning an instrument and hopefully these skills are already happening and, occurring even more with the loss of group instruction.

Fast Facts

- There will be five assignment, one per week, posted in Canvas. The assignments will be identical for first- and second-hour band. Students having issues using Canvas may simply e-mail Mr. Mewhorter and he will deliver the assignments using another method.
- Each assignment will be worth extra credit, giving students the ability to raise their current grade.
- A student must give appropriate effort in order to earn the extra credit
- These assignments will be designed as fairly stress-free yet meaningful. We completely share and support to goal of our district to "help students to elevate their grades, increase their success, and come through this crisis whole."

Some notes on "Grading" these assignments

- Students who currently do not have an "A" will be able to raise their grade by completing all the assignments.
- Students participating in leadership training will be required to complete some of the assignments as art of their training. These will be posted on the Band Leadership Google Classroom page and students will earn the extra credit in addition to building their leadership resume.
- Per our MPS Distance Learning guidelines, these assignments are, to all intents and purposes, optional and can only serve to raise your grade and not lower it.
- Now...let's be honest, a student already earning an "A" in band would naturally assume they have little incentive to participate in the assignments. However, we are going to invite you to reconsider this thought. Assignments will be geared to create activities that help the overall program and may even be fun.

What are these assignments?

- Assignments will be primarily video submissions.
- The first weeks of assignments will not require your instrument or equipment. For example, you may video yourself teaching someone how to make a sound on your instrument or march eight steps. We will use some of these videos with our incoming freshmen, therefore serving a real purpose and not be "busy work."
- We are hoping that instruments/equipment may be available at some point and the last assignments may consequently include individual performance.
- Assignments will be posted a week at a time in Canvas and announced on the band app.

Enrichment Activities

- Additional "challenges" may also be given to give incentives for playing your instrument or participating in band activities.
- Online rehearsals on Zoom, multi-track recordings then edited together to make a "band" (perhaps a chamber piece, jazz chart or even the fight song) and virtual private lessons are all in discussion as instruction we hope to facilitate.
- Look to the band app for these music challenges.

Lastly and most importantly...

We implore you.... play your instrument! Please, picture our marching band next season if we have students who have not picked up a horn since March 12...that is a sad scene indeed.

This is also an opportunity to work on one of our weaknesses, individual practice and intrinsic motivation (being motivated to play...just because). Do not wait for our staff to "trick" you into playing that instrument and improve your craft.

We miss you and cannot wait for the next time we get to meet together as the Southmoore Band!