

West Seneca Marching Band 2020 Rehearsal & Performance Protocols

The West Seneca Marching Band began the 2020 season remotely on August 24th. We are modeling the district plan to begin remotely with a plan to move towards in person learning. The band staff and band boosters have been planning since June to make this happen for our West Seneca students. To that end we have created a set of guidelines for the return to in person rehearsals. These guidelines are a blend of the [National Federation of High Schools Guidance for a Return to High School Marching Band](#) and the email to the West Seneca school community titled "[FALL 2020 Athletic Season - Please Read](#)" dated September 14, 2020 with supporting guidance from the [International Coalition of Performing Arts Aerosol Study](#), [NYSED Reopening Guidance](#) and consultation with James Mauck, director of the University of Buffalo Marching Band.

Guidelines for West Seneca Marching Band:

- All in-person rehearsals will be **outdoor only**.
 - Rehearsals will be held at **East Senior** turf field
 - The **field/ track will be closed to parents & the general public/** other students during and immediately after rehearsal/ performance. Signage will be posted conspicuously.
 - In case of **inclement weather rehearsals would be remote only** utilizing google meets.
 - Students will arrange their own transportation to and from rehearsals and any performance(s).
 - Students will be organized into groups of less than 50 on the field: ([click here for layout](#))
 - Woodwinds - 14
 - Brass - 25
 - Drumline - 7
 - Front Percussion Ensemble (Pit) - 7
 - Color Guard - 10
 - Groups may be moved farther apart depending on space available
 - The maximum total number of students plus staff on site will be 70 persons. This is 4.7% of the capacity of the stadium as marked on the stands on the home side of the field.
 - Rehearsal dates and times:
 - Generally Tuesdays and Thursdays, some Saturdays in October may also be planned
 - Generally between 6:00-8:30pm on Tues/ Thur
 - Start and end times will fluctuate somewhat during the season
 - Exact dates and times may fluctuate depending on field availability
 - October Saturday afternoon rehearsals will be communicated in advance
- Performance Options
 - There will be no competitions or travel to locations other than West Seneca Central School campus. No bussing.
 - No use of regular marching band uniforms. No changing of clothes or uniforms. Students will be provided a uniform T-shirt to be worn for performance(s). Students will arrive already in performance attire.
 - Can do either option, both would be preferable:
 - Parent Performance (2 spectators only) Saturday, October 31
 - Video record Oct 22 for submission to [USBands Virtual NY State Championship](#)
 - Register by Oct 20, submit by Oct 27
 - aired on FloMarching Oct 31-Nov 1 (original NYSFBC Championship weekend)
- **Daily screening of staff & students, ([Google Form](#))** temperature checks & standard Covid questions
 - do you have cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of smell and/or taste
 - have you had close contact or cared for someone with Covid
 - have you traveled to a Covid hotspot in the past 14 days

- Any person with positive symptoms reported should not be allowed to take part in rehearsals and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional.
- When arriving at rehearsal, **proceed directly to check-in to rehearsal. Do not wait in the parking lot for others to walk in together with.** Same when leaving, direct to your car/ ride home.
- **After being checked in to rehearsal students must report directly to their designated spot for rehearsal, not congregate together in groups.**
- **Masks are to be worn at all times in practice & performance.**
 - The Band Boosters will be providing all students with a mask.
 - Wind players will receive a special musician's mask that allows a mouthpiece to pass through between layers of fabric. (see [International Coalition of Performing Arts Aerosol Study](#))
 - Percussion and Color Guard students will receive a regular fabric mask.
- **Social distancing will be observed** when music is being taught. Students will learn the music standing still, spaced at a minimum of 12 foot intervals, 15 feet to start ([see layout here](#))
- When students are marching they will be spaced at a "6.4 step interval" minimum (12 feet) for all drill and on field formations. Typical HS marching band drills are usually written at a "3 step interval" with a "step" being defined as 22.5" which is based on 8 steps for every 5 yards.
- **Students are to arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to practice and leave the campus immediately following practices.**
- **Students will bring their own equipment/ instruments** to the outdoor rehearsal site and only touch/ handle their own instruments.
 - **Color guard students will bring their own flags.**
 - No sharing valve oil, reeds, sticks, mallets, etc.
- **All wind instruments will only be played with a bell cover** on as recommended by the [International Coalition of Performing Arts Aerosol Study](#) (supplied by band boosters) No playing before the bell cover is installed. Bell covers must be taken home and washed between rehearsals.
- Brass students will not be permitted to be empty water keys/ spit valves on the field or track at any time. Students will leave the field and empty on black top or grass area far away from any entrance, exit, other students or foot traffic area.
- Large instruments such as sousaphones, marimbas, xylophones and vibraphones will be stored in the band trailer. Equipment will be disinfected before and after practice.
- Students are to arrive prepared for practice/games. No one will be allowed in the buildings.
- **No hugging, high fives, shaking hands or fist bumps.**
- Students will only drink water from their own labeled water cooler. Provided by band boosters.
- Hand sanitizer will be available to all individuals.
- Port-a-pots will be on site for student use
 - It is recommended that students use the restroom at home before rehearsal
 - Port-a-pots will be sprayed with sanitizer before rehearsals
- If an instrument or equipment is in need of repair while on-site for rehearsal it should be brought to the attention of the band director who will assess the best course of action to repair the instrument or equipment. Students should not attempt to help other students with an instrument or equipment issue.
- If a student is not able to attend in-person rehearsals online options are available. Please contact the band director.

Spectators:

While a specific performance date(s) have not been yet established (see suggestions above), we hope to be able to hold a performance(s) for parents in mid-late October.

- All spectators must wear a face covering and social distance (6ft apart).
- only 2 spectators per student-musician will be allowed
- will be asked to sign in at performances for contact tracing purposes