

March 2021

Dear Readington Family,

We are pleased to announce that students participating in the Band Program at Readington Middle School (RMS) will have the opportunity to begin playing their instruments during in-person classes. The guidelines below have been developed following research and best practices in order to create the safest environment possible.

General guidelines for all students:

Students will receive and must use a bell cover for all brass instruments (trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone, tuba) or a bag for woodwinds (flute, oboe, clarinets, saxophones). The district will provide these.

Students will receive and must use the instrumental mask provided by the school while playing their instrument. The mask covers the nose and mouth. It has a flap that allows the player to insert the instrument mouthpiece when playing while keeping the mouth covered when not doing so. When students are not playing their instruments, they must wear a mask that meets district guidelines.

The playing of instruments during class will be limited to no longer than 30 minutes. Students will wipe down their music stand and seat at the start and end of each class, in-class storage of personal materials will be limited, and students will be seated six feet apart.

At least one period, currently 55 minutes, will occur between classes to allow for adequate air exchange. Whenever it is possible, students will play outdoors.

Should the COVID-19 Activity Level Index score become 3 (orange) or greater, in-person practice during band lessons may be suspended.

We understand arts education plays a critical role in our students' development, including addressing essential social and emotional learning needs. Please know that the Readington Township School District remains committed to working with you to ensure that a high-quality well-rounded education remains available to our students. If you have any concerns regarding our RMS Instrumental Music Program, please feel free to contact me. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

