

# Whitko Marching Pride

## Covid-19 Mitigation Strategies

In light of the global pandemic, and with Indiana's Considerations for Learning and Safe Schools (IN-CLASS) guidelines, the following mitigation strategies will be implemented for the Whitko Marching Pride. All of these guidelines will be in addition to those found in the updated Whitko Bands handbook, as well as all Whitko Community Schools procedures in regard to the pandemic.

## Student Materials

Each student will be asked to provide the following materials for themselves at each rehearsal

1. Instrument.
  - a. This includes your own supply of reeds, your own mouthpiece, and anything else you need for your instrument.
  - b. Percussion - you will need to keep your own sticks/mallets in your own mallet bag. We will not be sharing any mallets or sticks. They may be school owned mallets but you will have exclusive use of these.
2. Music (digital or paper)
3. Drill (digital or paper)
4. Sunscreen
5. Water
6. Hand sanitizer
7. Paint pen (replacing chalk, more on this later)
8. Cell phone (for music/drill, see more information below)
9. *Face-mask (subject to Whitko guidelines)*

The sharing of these or any other items will not be allowed at any point in the season.

## Regular Rehearsals

We will be continuing with 7:00 AM rehearsals this year. Please follow these procedures in order to abide by social distancing guidelines set forth by the state as well as Whitko Community Schools\* (subject to change as guidelines change)

1. Students are highly encouraged to arrive between 6:30 - 6:45 in order effectively start rehearsal at 7:00.
2. When you arrive please go straight to your seat in the band room. Use the hand sanitizer at the door on your way to your seat.
3. One at a time students may go to your locker to get your instrument and other materials. Return to your seat with all of your materials, assemble your instrument and gather your things.
  - a. If you can arrive with these materials it would be best, but I understand that may not be possible at all times.
4. Once you have your instrument put together you may head out to the parking lot and take your place in the stretch block. Please use social distancing guidelines on your way to this location.
5. Rehearsals will be structured to follow social distancing guidelines, and being outdoors will assist in the effort to limit the spread of possible contagions.

6. At the end of rehearsal students will be asked to go to their spot in the stretch block for announcements. Students will be dismissed from there.
7. Return to the band room while following social distancing guidelines. When you get back to the room go straight to your seat and begin sanitizing and disassembling your instrument.
8. One at a time you will return to your locker to put away your materials. At this time you may also go to the restroom to change clothes if you need to.
9. Once all of your materials are put away please return to your seat and wait for the bell. You will be dismissed by row. Use the hand sanitizer on your way out.

## Meals

Whenever students are at a rehearsal or event where a meal would have been served, this meal will need to be provided by the student. This will include band camp as well as competition days. Due to current guidelines it is not feasible to provide meals for the band as a whole. If it is not possible for you to provide a meal for yourself you will need to speak with me so we can make arrangements ahead of time. This will be done on a case-by-case basis.

In the past we have made stops at fast food restaurants for dinner on the way home from competitions and other events. Unfortunately this practice will have to cease. Students should plan to bring enough food to last them the entire day. Suggestions, recipes, and other helpful solutions will be discussed to give students the tools they need to satisfy the nutritional requirements of performing athletes.

## Individual Emphasis

Current state guidelines indicate that should a student test positive or exhibit symptoms of Covid-19, or even live with someone who has tested positive or exhibits symptoms, they will have a necessary leave of absence for a period of time. In marching band, absences are very tough to deal with. We rely on the continued presence of every member in order to better our group. However, we completely understand that this may not be possible this year. Therefore, we are going to emphasize a different style of teaching and learning that puts more emphasis on individual learning than on group instruction and repetition.

### Cell Phones

We are going to try to go as paperless as possible this year. This means that your drill and your music will all be given to you digitally. Drill will be given to you in charts as well as individual coordinate sheets. Music will be formatted to fit on the cell phone screen easily. Because we work with small sections at a time, and because we memorize all of our music, having it on your phone allows you to spot check things very quickly. It is very important that you have your phone charged at all times. You may also want to invest in a small external battery charger that you can have on you during rehearsal.

### Drill

Our process for learning and teaching drill works very well, and we will continue to use this process. We are, however, going to swap out chalk for “lumber crayons” (also may be called “paint pens”) for a more permanent solution. Having your dot permanently “painted” on the field will help review and reteach throughout the year, even if many people you are supposed to be looking for are gone for an extended period of time. We will also be putting more of an emphasis on learning your individual coordinates and less on “guiding to the form”.

Because the integrity of the form may be compromised by necessary absences, teaching “dot to dot” may be the more effective way to operate during this time.

### **Music**

Currently I have two arrangements of the show: the full version and a reduced version. Anyone who feels they are not able to keep up with the demands of the music can request the reduced version with fewer technical demands. We may even get to a point in the season where everyone switches to the reduced version. We may also make adjustments to both versions depending on how the season is going. I am going to do my best to use version control to make sure you have the most up to date arrangement. The revision date and the version will be listed at the bottom of your part, it will be your responsibility to make sure it is current. This should be automatic if you have your music on your phone, it will be more important if you are entirely paper based.

### **Choreography**

Any choreography we teach in the show will be videoed and uploaded to Google Classroom. The counts and descriptions of the movements will accompany each video. If you miss a day of teaching choreography it will be your responsibility to first watch the video and learn all you can, then ask someone on the leadership team to take you through it. If you still need help then ask Mr. and/or Mrs. VP.

### **Pass Offs**

Because we are all very well versed in digital learning, a system of pass offs will be in place throughout the year. All of the material we will be learning will be broken down into small sections and uploaded to MusicFirst and Google Classroom. You will be responsible for showing that you understand and can perform each section of material. This will include music (show, parade, pre-game, etc.) videos of choreography and marching fundamentals, and coordinate quizzes.

## **Uniforms**

Each student will be responsible for the cleaning and care of their uniforms. Under current guidelines, it is not recommended to pass shared uniforms from household to household, so one family will not be cleaning several uniforms. Everyone will receive a digital and hard copy of the cleaning instructions we received from Stanbury last year. Be advised that you will be responsible for the care of this uniform. Failure to follow cleaning instructions will result in you being charged to replace any or all of the uniform.

## **Changing Procedure**

In order to better facilitate changing into uniforms we will be following this procedure.

1. All students will change into their under-uniform at school before getting on the bus
  - a. The under-uniform will consist of your show shirt, black athletic shorts, black socks, and black marching shoes
2. During the colder months students can feel free to put on anything else over this under-uniform (sweats, coats, etc.)
  - a. Also during the colder months you can wear athletic thermals in addition to your athletic shorts under your uniform

3. When we arrive at a contest location and it comes time to change, we will not have to change in shifts based on genders, because no one will be removing any clothing. Students may use the bus, the trailer, or any other location in our designated spot, so long as you can hang your garment bag up.
  - a. Do not put it on the ground for any reason, even if the uniform is laying on the garment bag. Too much can go wrong in that situation!
4. When changing out of uniform students will follow the same process and return to their under-uniforms for loading the trailer.
5. If there is time and students wish to change out of their under-uniform, they may do so in the contest site's restrooms after the trailer has been loaded.

## Attendance Policy

We understand that students may have a necessary leave of absence for a period of time during the marching season. This is something that is anticipated and is to be expected. Our current attendance policy will continue to be used as it does take this into consideration, but should be restated here.

1. All students are asked to attend all rehearsals and other events, and to be on time for these events.
2. Any absence must be communicated to Mr. VanPatten ahead of time, whether directly or through the leadership team.
3. Any absence of a rehearsal is excused as long as it is communicated ahead of time.
  - a. It is expected that all students make every effort to attend all rehearsals at all times. However, we understand that life happens and conflicts exist. Part of learning to be a successful and mature person is to navigate those conflicts, and the best way to do that is through communication!
4. Any unexcused absence will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis through conversations with the absent student and the leadership team as well as the director.
5. It is absolutely mandatory that all students are present for all performances. These are graded events and absences will not be accepted in most cases, regardless of communication. Exceptions will be given to:
  - a. Weddings, funerals, graduations, or other ceremonial events that cannot be rescheduled
  - b. Emergencies involving student and/or family
  - c. Medical absence (for Covid-19 related circumstances or other illnesses or medical conditions)
  - d. Family vacations or trips will only be excused if the student can show that travel arrangements were made prior to the release of performance calendar