

Dear AGS Band Parents,

As we head into a face-to-face return to school next week, I want to reach out and communicate our plans for in-person band rehearsal. Since the quarantine in March of 2020, I've been monitoring the professional performing arts organizations responses to the virus, and staying updated on the various aerosol studies performed by these groups. Several scientific studies have been carried out ([you can read the entire findings here](#)) and the main takeaways provide us with several recommendations for safely playing wind instruments in school. They include:

- Wearing masks when not actively playing instruments
- Bell covers when appropriate
- HVAC systems with an air exchange rate of 3 exchanges per hour
- Disposable absorbent materials for condensation
- Frequent hand washing
- Wiping down shared materials (chairs and stands) between classes

Just as we did this past school year, I can assure you that we will be meeting or exceeding all of these recommendations when we hold band classes beginning next week. The AGS HVAC air exchange rate is 17 exchanges per hour (well beyond the recommended 3) and FAPS will be providing face coverings for all staff and students, as well as bell covers for instruments and absorbent materials for condensation. We had a chance to implement these cautionary measures into the rehearsal procedure last year, and will continue to do so, to ensure that we can provide the best possible instrumental music experience.

We're very excited to see your kids and get back to in-person teaching and music-making! Please reach out via email if you have questions or concerns.

Best,

Andy Perkins
Director of Bands, AGS Middle School
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