



Portales Band Programs

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Dear PMSD Band Students and Parents,

As you are aware, the current COVID-19 pandemic has presented a myriad of challenges for the public schools.

At Portales Municipal Schools, we continue to discuss these challenges and work to find solutions that will keep our community safe, yet provide meaningful music-making experiences for our students. As we draw closer to the beginning of the year, it becomes apparent that this year will not look like any year we've had before, and sometimes it feels like we have more questions than answers. With mandates from the state, schedule changes from the NMAA, and guidance from NMMEA, we are doing our best to navigate uncertain waters.

After reviewing mandates and guidelines and discussing the ever-changing situation with administrators and the band staff, we regrettably will be shifting our athletic band season into the spring. Regional marching band events have been cancelled, and as of today football season is scheduled to begin in February. Therefore, summer band rehearsals and the marching show for this year are cancelled. We will reassess in the weeks leading in with regards to how we will be able to best support our Rams in the spring.

Despite this blow, we STILL look forward to meeting with students starting August 18, and we will enjoy our time together making music and developing our "mad skills." PJHS and Lindsey Beginning Bands will be able to have a somewhat "normal" rehearsal schedule and will be able to continue as planned. We will have lots of fun music ready to play for all band levels and we want students to have the opportunity to improve as individual musicians. Most importantly, we want to provide the opportunity to make music with friends! PMSD values music education and the vital role it plays in the health and morale of our students, so we will continue to provide the best music program possible!

We will also be exploring safe options for concerts and performances, since the standard concert format will likely be unavailable. We are working on several options for that and will keep you posted!

We know that this news is disappointing, and the future seems uncertain and scary, but we will tackle it together--safely--and our music making in the process will thrive.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Flores, Mr. Marquez, Mr. Aragon, and Mr. Powell