Guidance for Band during COVID-19

Music is an important component of a well-rounded education, as defined by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). During the COVID-19 pandemic, students should continue to learn and master the same standards, although the method might need to be temporarily adjusted. Music remains integral to the intellectual and artistic growth of students, as well as imperative to their Social Emotional Learning.

If the Fall semester results in blended instruction or in-person with restrictions:
- Balance student class numbers to available square feet per guidelines from the Georgia Department of Public Health.
- Assign every student their own instrument, music folder, and supplies. Avoid sharing equipment unless equipment can be properly sanitized between needed use by multiple students.
- Follow scientific recommendations for playing instruments indoors (studies in progress – data expected July 2020). If recommendations necessitate mitigation strategies, consider:
  - Move classes to larger spaces or outdoors when available.
  - Organize small ensembles in various locations/outside
  - Issue music and equipment for students to practice at home (e.g., fundamental exercises, technical exercises, large ensemble music)
  - Assess via small group or digital submissions
  - Assign days for small ensembles to bring equipment to play in class
  - Work that can be done in class in large group: Music History, Composition. Theory, Rhythmic Performance & Dictation, Visual and Aural Analysis of music

If the Fall semester results in virtual learning (online)
- Issue equipment to students for learning at home
- Distribute music and fundamental packages in digital and/or hard copy for students to begin work
- Schedule synchronous online classes to include analysis and performance of solo and ensemble music
- Students work on individual parts independently
- Digital Lessons can include musical works and fundamentals, composition, theory, music history, visual and aural analysis of music, and SEL