

DGS Bands Music Notes

*The Official Newsletter of the Downers Grove South
High School Band Program*



A note from the directors:

Welcome to the first issue of "DGS Bands Music Notes"! This issue is intended to provide you with more detailed information in regards to our return to school. Plans are always changing and evolving, but we are hopeful that this plan will largely remain the same.

The DGS Band Program prides itself on inclusion, musical growth and transformational life experiences for students. Any decision being made is within this framework with a strong focus on student safety.

Please scroll through this summer issue of Music Notes to read more about future plans with the 2020 Marching Mustangs and other DGS Bands updates. We hope that this newsletter will be informative. After reading, please do not hesitate to reach out with questions.

Musically yours,

Will Sugg

Greg Hensel

Glenn Williams



Welcome, Dr. Sugg!

Music teacher William Sugg will teach Jazz Workshop, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony and Wind Ensemble. South High School alum and current Marching Illini Drum Major Jake Burrows says about William Sugg "Over the past few years, I have had the honor and privilege of getting to know Dr. Will Sugg as a colleague and friend. It has become evident that Will is both a passionate music educator and selfless human being. Whether it is on the podium, on the football field or talking one-on-one, Will's priority always is on who and what he cares about. His charisma and empathy create a culture that is welcoming and accepting and he will be an invaluable addition to the DGS family, fostering growth and success in the program and every student."

You can read the original post here:
[DGS Fine Arts Blog](#).



Warning: Construction Ahead!



Construction is in full swing at DGS as the building undergoes a much needed make-over. While Covid-19 pushed students out of school, it cleared the way for construction to ramp up. We can't wait to see what the finished product will look like. Gorgeous new facilities will especially be appreciated by staff, students, and families alike. The Fine Arts Department is especially excited for the new art wing, brand new auditorium, and the new grandstands in the football stadium!

[Link: Facility Friday Updates](#)



Marching Mustangs 2020 Updates



Season Schedule:

As many of you know, the global pandemic has created a long list of cancellations and postponements. It has been no different in the world of competitive marching band. Many of you have most likely already heard that the Illinois State University and University of Illinois contests have been cancelled for 2020. After these major events cancelled, a group of Chicago area marching band directors got together to discuss what this means for our seasons. In a unanimous decision, the group decided it would be in the best interest of our students' safety to cancel our local contests for 2020, including the DGS Music Bowl. This decision was not made easily as we all brainstormed other solutions to continue a competitive season. Ultimately, we chose to pursue a path that could ensure all of our students' safety.

The link below will take you to a letter written jointly by this group of Illinois Marching Band Directors. As you keep scrolling, you can read more about our alternative plans to continue the 2020 Marching Mustangs season.

[IL Marching Band Director Letter](#)

What does this mean for our season?

While we may not be competing this season, we can still find ways to maintain student safety and provide a meaningful marching band experience. We believe this experience is important for the Marching Mustangs community not only to maintain our skills for when we do return to a competitive format, but also for our seniors experiencing their final season.

This season, our goal is to combine virtual rehearsals with limited in-person meetings to create a student-selected Virtual 2020 Show. Any in-person meetings will include a variety of safety precautions and procedures. That said, **any student that does not feel comfortable attending in-person rehearsals can still participate in our virtual show.**



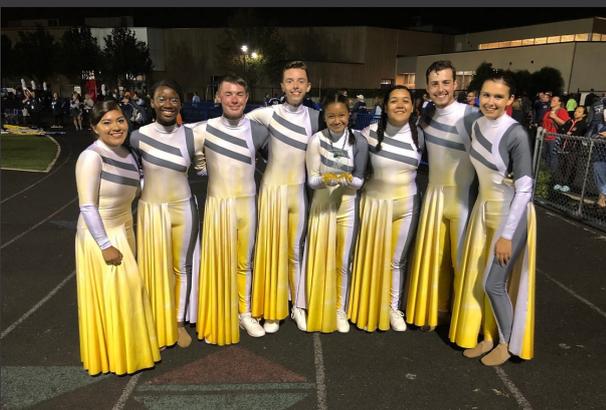
Season Calendar

The dates below have been taken from the season calendar that was sent out in June with the marching band registration form. While we might not have details of every event finalized due to ongoing district planning, we ask that you please keep these dates available for either virtual or in-person meetings. This schedule could be subject to change as safety guidelines are released from local and state authorities.

Please see the attached season calendar below for additional commitments.

8/3-8/7	Marching Mustangs Band Camp	DGS School Grounds	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
8/15/20	Mini-Camp Rehearsal	Stadium/East Field	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
8/22/20	Mini-Camp Rehearsal	Stadium/East Field	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
8/29/20	Mini-Camp Rehearsal	Stadium/East Field	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
9/12/20	Recording Day #1	Stadium/East Field	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
9/19/20	Recording Day #2	Stadium/East Field	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
9/26/20	Recording Day #3	Stadium/East Field	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
10/10/20	Marching Mustang Music Bowl	Virtual	Evening
11/6/20	Marching Band Banquet	DGS	7:00 PM

Rehearsals are limited to 3 hour blocks, which will be staggered by sections throughout the day



See the full revised calendar linked here:

[July 2020 Revised Schedule](#)

Summer Rehearsals & Band Camp

Any student attending in-person rehearsals must complete the Phase 4 Virtual Permission Slip Form linked below. At each rehearsal we will be following safety protocols outlined by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Any student feeling even the most mild symptoms must stay home. Wear a mask when possible and maintain a safe distance, even when outdoors. Students will be checked in with a temperature reading and brief health form at the start and end of each gathering.

All Students Complete This Form:

[Return to Play - Phase 4 Virtual Permission Slip](#)



As we get closer to Band Camp, we will share more detailed information. The tentative plan is to have a blocked schedule that may include both virtual and in-person instruction. In order to have in-person rehearsals, we will need to follow district and state guidelines to ensure the safety and well-being of all students.

Simple measures include bringing your own water supply, not sharing food, and wearing a mask whenever possible.

A safety plan is in the works and will be shared with students and families prior to the first in-person meeting.

Percussion Summer Rehearsals

7/20	Percussion Sectional	DGS	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
7/28	Percussion Sectional	DGS	2:00 PM - 9:00 PM
7/29	Percussion Sectional	DGS	2:00 PM - 9:00 PM
7/30	Percussion Sectional	DGS	2:00 PM - 9:00 PM

July 28-30: Front Ensemble 2:00 - 5:00 PM
Battery: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM



Color Guard Summer Rehearsals

7/16	Color Guard Sectional	DGS	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
7/23	Color Guard Sectional	DGS	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
7/27	Color Guard Sectional	DGS	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
7/28	Color Guard Sectional	DGS	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
7/29	Color Guard Sectional	DGS	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
7/30	Color Guard Sectional	DGS	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
7/31	Color Guard Sectional	DGS	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM



What Will Marching Band Cost?

This season we are dramatically reducing the cost of what we would normally charge for a marching band season. This fee was calculated based on the number of people currently registered for the band to help pay for the following: marching band staff, new music for an alternate show, percussion and guard equipment, show shirts, etc.

Each student will owe \$75, due on the August 3rd (first day of band camp). Payments can be made with a credit card through the band web store.

[Make Payments Here](#)



2020 MM Registration Extended

If you have already registered for the 2020 Marching Mustangs - good news! You do not need to register again. For anyone that did not register, ***we will be re-opening registration from Monday July 13th until Friday July 17th.***

Do you know anyone that did not register for the Marching Mustangs? This is the perfect time for them to register and not miss out on our 2020 season!

[2020 Marching Mustangs Registration Form](#)



The 2020 Show Theme Is...

Student choice! For the first time in DGS Band history, the students will select the show. Due to financial commitments made with our competitive show "The Arena", we have decided to reserve that show for the 2021 season. Every marching band member needs to complete the show theme voting form linked below:

Due 7/17:
Show Theme
Voting Ballot



2020 Show Shirts

Since "The Arena" show has been moved to 2021, the student t-shirt design contest has been postponed to next season. Thank you to those students that submitted designs. Instead, we will be creating a commemorative show shirt for what is certainly going to be a unique 2020 season. We would like to make sure that we have the most accurate and up to date t-shirt sizes from every member of the band.

ALL STUDENTS - please complete this form by Friday July 17th.

All Students Complete this Form:

T-Shirt Size Form

