

DGS Bands Music Notes

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



A spooky note from Dr. Sugg:

Hello DGS Bands!

We hope October is welcoming you well! We finally are starting to feel some sort of rhythm in school at this point, and we for you are too! As we transition into hybrid schedules, it has been wonderful to finally meet freshmen on campus this month, and we look forward, even more than before, to seeing many of you all in person this week! We'd never thought we'd be so excited to be able to hear wrong notes! Welcoming you all back and getting to actually play along with each other (and actually hear each other) is an experience we will certainly never take for granted ever again! We can't wait to hear your sounds and see your faces!

We will continue to look forward to finding ways to play together, be it virtually through technology, or in person, through multicolored shower caps...or rather, "bell covers" (More on that later). No matter the environment, we will find ways to make music together!

- Dr. Sugg



Wires are back in!

As students continue their work in Soundtrap for recording projects, we have discovered that wired headphones work the best. Wireless (Bluetooth) headphones will work in some cases, but the majority are experiencing issues with a delay that causes problems with the finished product.

A set of wired headphones is great to have for recording, which is something we will continue to do a lot of throughout the school year.

Is this a requirement to have? No, but they are highly recommended for recording projects moving forward. If you're interested, check out [this link](#) and similar wired headphones that you can order on Amazon.



Guest Clinicians Inspire in Jazz Bands

The Jazz Bands have been fortunate in recent weeks to work with two fantastic guest clinicians over Zoom. Anthony Kidonakis plays saxophone and is the Professor of Jazz Studies at VanderCook College in Chicago. Kirk Garrison plays trumpet and is the former lead trumpet player for the US Air Force Jazz Band in Washington DC. Mr. Garrison currently teaches at Elmhurst College and plays lead trumpet with the Lt. Dan Band featuring Gary Sinise. Both artists worked on jazz improvisation concepts, recording techniques, and tips for successful jazz performance. Thanks to VanderCook College and Elmhurst College for sponsoring these clinics!

[Tony Kidonakis Bio](#)

[Kirk Garrison Bio](#)



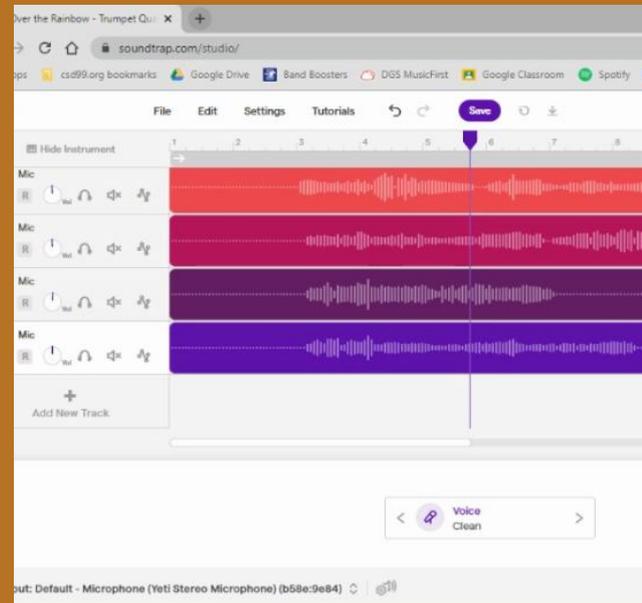
Wind Bands Update

The band classes continue their work in Soundtrap, learning how to record themselves as this continues to be the best path for success in a virtual music class setting.



Students in every band period have completed at least one project of recording themselves playing a quartet style arrangement.

Has your student played their quartet project for you? Ask them to listen and see what they've put together. You can hear a great example of these projects later in this newsletter!



Hybrid Plans - Returning to In-Person

The week of October 19th marks the start of our hybrid class schedule with students returning to campus for limited in-person instruction. We are excited to welcome students back into the band room and have live music fill these spaces again! Many details of our new in-person learning will be worked out with students on their first day back. Below you can see a picture of the band room set up with chairs spaced apart. More information to come on how we plan to keep students within health guidelines during in-person learning.



Considerations for In-Person Learning:

- Students will be supplied with masks and covers for their instruments.
- Students will play for no more than 30 minutes at a time to allow airflow exchange.
 - Tuba players should bring their mouthpieces to school. Keep tubas at home.
 - Percussionists bring stick bags.
- Everyone continue to bring Chromebooks.
- Everyone should have a pencil.



Student Work Spotlight:

Allison Ford

This month we would like to feature the exemplary work of Allison Ford, a junior trumpet player in 4th Period Wind Ensemble. In a recent project, Allison recorded herself playing a quartet arrangement of Joseph Hadyn's "Surprise Symphony".

Here is a link to the audio from Allison's project (shared with permission) - ENJOY!

Individual Quartet Project - Allison Ford

Private Lessons

Amidst the changes in learning spaces this year, most private lesson teachers have migrated in-person lessons to virtual, typically over video conference.

We strongly encourage every student to participate in private lessons if possible. The lessons offer additional 1 on 1 time for the student to work on more instrument specific fundamentals.

Visit the [Private Lessons](#) page on our website for private teacher contact information and you can reach out to them directly!



Band Boosters



The Mustang Band Boosters are a proud organization of parents that help promote the DGS Band Program.

Whether it's fundraising money to purchase a new instrument or organizing a volunteer group to feed the Pep Band before a basketball game, this group is instrumental (see what I did there?) in the success of the DGS Band Program.

If you would like to get involved, this is the best time to do it. Come to a meeting and learn about what's going on!

Meetings take place the first Monday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM and are open to all. Hope to see you there!

ZOOM Meeting Link

(This link never changes)

Next Meeting:

Monday November 2nd, 2020

Marching Mustangs

2020 Updates



A message from Dr. Sugg:

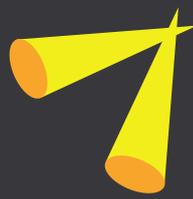
**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**

Hi Everyone!

Thank you all for an incredible recording session on Saturday! The production company, Bitter Jester, was blown away at your efficiency and eagerness throughout the day! You all proved, once again, that you are a professional organization of the highest caliber. This is a new and very weird type of experience for a marching band that none of us (myself included) are very familiar with, but I can say that, after watching you all work with them on Saturday, I'm VERY excited to see the final product, and I hope you all are too!



Staff Spotlight: Danny Tedeschi



Role: Marching Mustangs Music Director and Brass Specialist

Danny Tedeschi is currently the Director of Bands at Eisenhower Junior High School in Darien where he directs 3 curricular ensembles, an extra-curricular jazz ensemble, and an extra-curricular parade style marching band. In addition to teaching at Eisenhower Danny runs a private lesson studio for low brass students in the surrounding area. Danny has had a deep love for the marching arts that stemmed from being a member of the Marching Mustangs himself from 2009-2013.

Danny completed his Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Illinois State University in May of 2017. At ISU Danny studied Music Education and Trombone Performance while performing in a variety of ensembles such as the ISU Windy Symphony, ISU Jazz Ensemble, and the Big Red Marching Machine. Danny is currently working on a Masters' Degree in Music Education at Vandercook College of Music in Chicago. When he is not teaching, Danny enjoys performing with his jazz fusion band called "The BackBeat", watching the White Sox, golfing, and spending time with his family.



Drum Major Podium: Jeffery Weinholtz

Hi everyone, my name is Jeffery and I am one of the four drum majors here at DGS. As the marching band season comes to a close, I would just like to say how impressed I am with everyone in the marching band. We went from thinking that there is no way that we will be able to have a season to recording a full show musically, and putting visual recordings to the show. It is absolutely astonishing what the Marching Mustangs were able to accomplish given the circumstances.

For my seniors out there, I am sorry this season had to go the way it did, we did not compete or even put a real show together but I think that we will all be satisfied with the outcome of the season. We all had a great time teaching and doing what we could to make this season great. Now, for all of my freshmen out there, I really hope that this peek into the marching band world gets you excited for what is to come. All of my fellow marchers will know that nothing beats the rush of walking onto a field right before performing your show. I still remember my freshman year, walking into the U of I stadium, seeing the thousands of seats around me, looking up to the press box, and thinking, "Wow, I'm about to perform a show in front of hundreds of people, in a stadium I've never been to, with a bunch of people I just met this summer." And while that may seem like a scary thing, that was also the moment I realized that this was my home. So freshman, I am sorry that you missed out on that opportunity this year, but I am so excited to see what next year brings for you all!

I want to thank everyone involved in the marching band, musicians, color guard, and staff for a wonderful season. I hope that the friends you made and the experiences you had make up for the lack of a real show this year. I am so grateful to be part of a team with all of you and y'all have truly made my four years in the band program some of the best.

Thanks,
Jeffery

