**Preface:**

**Covid 19 plan as of June 6, 2020**

The following is provided as preface to our handbook for the 2020-2021 season.

The remainder of the handbook is unchanged to serve as an eventual target for whenever the circumstances have changed for all of us.

**June 20 updates: Yellow Highlights**

**WHY – We are still here for our students**

* North Hills Bands are here to enrich the lives of our students, school, and community in a way that only music education can.
* Parents shared through surveys and focus groups that they want and need their kids to be back in activities.
  + Families describe working together in band as life-changing.
  + The quarantine has negatively impacted our children.
  + Students need interpersonal connections, now more than ever.

**HOW – We need to be safe about educating them through our school activities**

* Safety is everyone’s responsibility has always been our approach
* Information continues to become available, so we continue to adapt
  + Allegheny County went “Green” June 5th
  + Pennsylvania guidelines: PIAA, PDE
  + Other recommendation: American Bandmasters Association, National Federation of State High School Association, etc.
  + Research
    - **Playing Wind Instruments**
      * <https://youtu.be/K5Yu4ll8JGg>
      * <https://www.br.de/nachrichten/bayern/bamberger-symphoniker-wissenschaftler-messen-aerosolausstoss,Ry6T6OU?fbclid=IwAR0q9LfNqv3QFBZ6EiWDlKs2vvNEnBJKb96oYhDa-PeKx6ePGu9jQqy5RrQ>
    - **Outside activities are safest**
  + Booster group – “people power” of the largest booster group in school to get the things and help our student need to participate

**WHAT – 4 Areas of Adaptations**

**#1 Schedule**

* Currently PIAA start date is July 1, even though we are in “Green”
* **First rehearsal for ~~everyone~~ veterans is July 2**
* Drumline, Flagline, and Majorette information is currently being provided
* Week of June 22 - share more information for season – parts to music, etc.
* ~~June 23, 25 and 30 - tentative~~ **~~“Rookie Nights”~~** ~~pending updated PIAA guidelines~~ July 1, Rookie Night
* Drumline, Flagline, and Majorette tryouts are TBA based on PIAA guidelines: will be July 1 and July 2
* **“Summer Band”**
* July 2 for ~~everyone~~ veteran’s
* 2 weeks: July 6,7,9 & 13,14,16 in evening – times on calendar
* Two weeks off – built in break to assess guidelines
* **“Pre-Camp”** – will be week of August 3, tentative schedule on calendar
* **“Band Camp**” – will start August 8, all details TBA
  + Over 2 months away
  + The priority is to create a safe plan under the current guidelines while providing the best possible experiences for our students
* **Fall** – TBA
  + Yes - even if no football games (look at the WHY)
  + Home games only? More buses? Different seating?
  + Whatever is right for safety of our students

**#2 Location: Outside**

* Very good thing for marching – safest place to be
* Easily adapt everything to a 6’ spacing (marching spacing is often 7.5’)
* Can play our instruments without masks outside
  + **No enhanced risk from playing Wind Instruments**
  + **Outside activities are safest**
  + Masks provided for when needed: bathrooms, water breaks, etc.
* If a rehearsal is a “rainout” we can cancel

**#3 Habits** – July 2nd will be for learning these habits

* Students check in to rehearsal via Participant Monitoring Form
* Temperatures can be taken
* Students have provided draw string bag @ all times:
  + Sanitizer
  + Mask
  + Lyre, flip folder, music and pencil
* Extra water bottles are provided if student forgets – no sharing
* Many bathrooms open in building, assigned by grade to limit traffic
* Attendance
  + Accountability important – will be e-mail just for attendance
  + Must stay home if not well
* Adapt “little things”
  + Sing alma mater in huge circle with our masks on
  + “Air high 5’s,” “6’ first pumps”
* Proposed action plan if student or staff is exposed to Covid 19

**#4 Amount and pacing of material**

* Fabulous shows planned, but no external expectations
  + **Pre-Game:** Mandalorian, Star Spangled Banner, Alma Mater, Go Indians
  + **Beatles:** Imagine, Let it Be, Twist and Shout, I Wanna Hold Your Hand, Hey Jude
  + **March, A Sousa Spectacular:** Washington Post, TBD, Stars and Stripes Encore
* Priority is to work safely together so kids can have this as part of their lives

**One Step at a Time**

* This is the next step.
* We will continue to review changes to guidelines as information becomes available.
* Register @ [www.nhipa.org](http://www.nhipa.org) to begin receiving newsletters.
* Continue to check newsletters for additional information.
* Costs and fundraising options will be updated in the weeks ahead, and information will be shared the week of June 22.
* Please contact us at any time with questions or needs.