



News and Notes

Let them Make Music!

Every once in a while, an issue presents itself that reminds us of our purpose. We have just such an issue now. As you may know, athletics has been able to return to practice, following covid-safe practices as laid out by the CDC. This includes full-contact practice for football. However, the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) has specific verbiage in their guidance that prohibits music programs (specifically singing and playing wind instruments) from resuming. This is true despite the most recent guidance from the CDC indicating that it is safe for music programs to return, with safeguards in

place. Specifically, practices should be held outside, when possible, masks worn, maintaining 6 feet social distancing and bell covers utilized (especially indoors). These are the exact practices implemented by the NMSU Band Program; and, to date, they have had 0 cases among faculty and/or student, despite being back since last summer.

Additionally, there has been a major study conducted looking at the safety of the resumption of Band Programs. That study can be found here: <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/third-round-of-performing-arts-aerosol-study-produces-more-scientific-data-for-return-to-activities/>

testing-report-7-13-20.pdf and here: <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/third-round-of-performing-arts-aerosol-study-produces-more-scientific-data-for-return-to-activities/> Please take some time to read through these. At our meeting, last night, our CHS Band Board voted unanimously to support advocacy efforts directed at the safe resumption of band activities in New Mexico. We have been guided by input from the New Mexico Music Educators Association, the CDC, and the science. We hope that you will join us in these efforts. After all, the primary purpose of our Booster Club is to support music education through the band programs at Centennial High School.

Inside this issue:

Advocate for Music Education	1
Calendar Poster Sale	2
Board Elections	3
Sample Advocacy Letter	3
Contact Info	4

The New Mexico Music Educators Association has asked parents to help advocate for a safe return to music education.

Specifically, the Department of Health has been reluctant to change the verbiage in their guidance to PED, even in light of the studies conducted and the experiences of bands around the country.

It is important to advocate on the basis of equity for all students.

Please see the guidance documents sent via email and posted on the Band App.



How to Advocate

If you are so inclined, we would ask you to consider the following opportunities for advocacy: Email the following people:

Ryan.Stewart@state.nm.us (State Secretary of Education)

Katarina.Sandoval@state.nm.us (Dep. Sec. of Academic Engagement and Student Success)

Vickie.Bannerman@state.nm.us (Dep. Sec. of Identity, Equity, and Transformation)

Dr. Karen Trujillo, Superinten-

dent, LCPS (ktrujillo@lcp.net)
Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham:
<https://www.governor.state.nm.us/contact-the-governor/>

State Legislators (Here is a link to find yours: [nmlegis.gov/Members/Find_My_Legislator](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Members/Find_My_Legislator))

Las Cruces Sun-News, Letter to the Editor:
<https://static.lcsun-news.com/lettertoeditor/>

Tracie.Collins@state.nm.us (State Sec. of Dept. of Health).

We have sent a sample letter via email and posted on the Band App for you to use, along with guidance. Please highlight the lack of equity for all students to be able to return to their activities, based on the science. Keep your correspondence civil and professional.



Coming Attractions - Important Dates

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
2/22/21	Football Resumed	n/a	n/a
2/16/21	Parent Meeting	Zoom	6:30 pm
3/1/21	Poster Fundraiser Begins	n/a	n/a
3/8/21	Band Board Meeting	Zoom	6:30 pm
3/16/21	Parent Meeting	Zoom	6:30 pm
3/31/21	Poster Fundraiser Ends	n/a	n/a
4/12/21	Band Board Meeting	Zoom	6:30 pm
4/20/21	Parent Meeting (elections)	Zoom	6:30 pm
5/10/21	Band Board Meeting	Zoom	6:30 pm



Poster Sale Begins March 1!

We are gearing up for the 3rd Annual Poster Ad sale to benefit the Centennial High School Band Program! You've probably seen similar efforts of other programs in High School.

This year, we are asking EVERY band student to sell one business-card sized ad. The ads cost \$100 each and you are free to sell an ad to a business or purchase a personal ad. Personal ads can include a message to a student, the Directors, etc. A flyer with the details was sent via email and is posted on the Band App.

The sale begins on 3/1/21 and all money and ads (digital or hard copy) are due to Jeni no later than the end of the day on 3/31/21. As in years past, the poster will also

include photos of the Band. However, this year, we will have to get creative with those photos.

Please understand, this is the first formal fundraiser of the entire school year and all students are expected to participate. Also, this is one of the easiest and most lucrative fundraisers we have.

This is a great time to start earning funds to be used next marching season. Please reach out to Jeni if you have any questions or concerns.



**3RD ANNUAL BAND POSTER
HELP SUPPORT
MUSIC EDUCATION**

ENCOURAGE OUR STUDENTS
This school year has been so difficult for our students. There have been no classes, no dances, no competitions, no concerts... Our Seniors have missed out on so many "firsts" in High School. Our Freshmen have no idea how much fun it is to be a part of a band family and playing for a virtual audience just isn't the same. The research is clear - music education is associated with all things good - achievement, social adjustment, critical thinking, etc. Please consider purchasing an ad to help offset the costs of travel, meals, and music next year.
More importantly, please consider purchasing an ad to show our band students that music education matters and that our community cares about them. Ads and payment due no later than 3/31/21.

Questions? Please contact Jeni Raess at chsbandscreens@gmail.com or 575-312-7394.



CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND!

Business Card Sized Ad Only \$100

We are a 501(c)(3). Donations may be Tax Deductible

Professional or Personal Messages Welcome

Check, Cash, or Credit Card Payments

CNS BAND
P.O. Box 16481
Las Cruces, NM 88004
575-312-7394

centennialband.net
chsbandscreens@gmail.com

Board Elections are Right Around the Corner

It's hard to believe that it's election season in the band world already. As required by our By-Laws, we will be holding elections for Board officers at the April parent meeting. The following positions comprise the Board:

President
Vice-President
Treasurer

Secretary
Student Accounts
Fundraising/Concessions

It is important to recognize that the positions of President and Secretary are currently filled with parents whose band students are seniors. It is in the band's best interest for new par-

ents to begin to serve on the Board. I am happy to answer any questions you may have about these positions and to provide a general description of the duties. Just shoot me a text or an email. You are also welcome to call, if you'd prefer to chat. We will talk about elections at the next parent meeting, as well.

Sample Letter for Advocacy

DATE

Formal Title and Name of Recipient:

My name is _____; and I am the parent of a high school band student in Las Cruces, NM. I am writing to express my concern regarding policies which prevent the safe resumption of in-person music classes. It is clear that music education benefits our students in a myriad of ways including academic achievement, drop-out prevention and healthy social-emotional development. (<https://nafme.org/20-important-benefits-of-music-in-our-schools/>). These issues are even more important during this pandemic. It is my understanding that the New Mexico Department of Public Education and/or the New Mexico Department of Health have specifically excluded music classes from being able to resume. This is in direct contradiction to the CDC guidelines, specific to music classes. (file:///C:/Users/jraess1/Desktop/Band%20Stuff/Covid%20Materials/CFC_Guide_for_School_Administrators.pdf). Additionally, there have been national, scientific studies, specific to this issue. The CDC has recognized these studies in issuing their guidance. I urge you to review the scientific data, from the NFHS Study, found here: <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/>. It seems obvious that the Department of Health and the Public Education Department MUST consider the data and revise their guidance about music activities in our schools. Our students deserve it.

Importantly, there have been no national studies, of this caliber, regarding the return to high school sports, and yet they have been allowed to resume activities with precautions. It seems only equitable that our students also be allowed to safely return to band activities. In addition to the national study, New Mexico State University led the way in our State for a safe return to music education. Please see the letter from Dr. Smyth of NMSU about the precautions they have taken and the amazing data that 0 students and/or faculty were infected with COVID from their music activity. (<file:///C:/Users/jraess1/Desktop/Band%20Stuff/Covid%20Materials/NMSU%20Covid%20Summary.pdf>)

I implore you to take action. Allow our students the same opportunities as student-athletes to safely practice their craft and to enhance their educational experience. Please, let them sing. Let them play music!

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Email Address



CHS Band Parent Association

P.O. Box 16481
Las Cruces NM 88004

Phone: 575-312-7394 (Jeni)

Email:
CHSBandLasCruces@gmail.com

▶ **Stronger Together.
With Pride.
#HawkYeah**

We're on the web!
Www.centennialband.net

For the latest and most up-to-date information, join us on the **BAND app**. You can find it in the App Store and Android platforms. You can also search, "**Band.us/@chsband**". We ask that you have this app on your mobile device (and enable "push" notifications) for ease of communication at football games, competitions and other events.

Our website is: **centennialband.net**

Finally, check us out on **Facebook**
"**@CentennialHighSchoolBand**".

Did You Know....? Band Parent Association Officers and Band Instructors

These are your Band Parent Board Officers and Band Instructors for the 2020-2021 School year and their "affiliated" sections:

Jeni Raess - President
madijosmom@aol.com
Clarinet
(575-312-7394)

Veronica Guerrero - Vice-President
vguerrero30@gmail.com
Clarinet
(575-202-6225)

Christal Swenson - Treasurer
ccandbswenson@gmail.com
Percussion
(575-993-1640)

Kim Vallejos - Secretary
vallejokim123@gmail.com
Color Guard
(575-571-3626)

Deb Hewus - Student Accounts
Deb.hewus@gmail.com
Horns
(575-635-0702)

Selina Cardoza - FoD Concessions
scardoza75@gmail.com
Percussion
(575-644-0869)

Philip Ramos - Director
pramos@lcps.net

Karen Padilla - Assistant Director
kpadilla1@lcps.net

