

We all know the importance of music education and now more than ever is our opportunity to bring people into the conversation and understand these concepts. USBands is here for you and has compiled this document that helps principals, administrators, school board officials and community leaders to understand the vital role of music in our communities in these uncertain times.

All benefits listed below are to help support the continuation of marching band activities in areas where participation is approved according to CDC guidelines and those set forth in research and documents such as the National Federation of High School Association's "[Return to High School Marching Band Activities](#)"

- "Band in the Bubble" - Band is an exceptional model for extracurricular activities to be held on campuses. In this current environment, marching band does not depend on opposing teams or individuals from outside to be successful, but rather is limited strictly to healthy, enrolled students and faculty.
- Marching Band provides Physical, Social and Emotional Learning opportunities which are critical for students who are feeling disconnected and desire a sense of normalcy during this crisis.
- Band is a supervised and highly structured extracurricular activity which is conducted outdoors and in adherence to all social distancing including 12-15 feet separation guidelines. Daily monitoring of student and staff health is mandated as part of recognized state and national policies.
- Marching band participation can be experienced in a non-congregant setting with no spectators present and only school district approved personnel onsite to manage the participation.
- "Practice with a Purpose" Participation and/or competition can be achieved through an online national evaluation program (v-USBands) providing weekly assessment and development of student's skills as an individual performer or member of an ensemble.
- "The Spirit Engine" - Marching band and the music program represents performance, participation and pride for students and faculty on school campuses. The music program can energize the entire community by giving a sense of normalcy in uncertain times by showcasing students and their talents.
- Much-needed positive and hopeful community building activity allowing for students, parents and residents to engage in a celebration of talented young people.
- Acknowledgement of the dedication and commitment of faculty and students in the development of each school's scholastic music program over many years and in some cases, decades.
- Performances are shared on the leading international pageantry arts platform FloMarching, to bring national recognition to each music program as a source of pride and accomplishment for the community.
- Bands are highly regulated and organized to provide communication and dissemination of information.
- In the event school campuses are open for student attendance in hybrid or full in-person learning models, health and safety guidelines are already established and being met for student participation in low impact, high return extracurricular activities.
- Utilization of school owned property such as stadiums and other practice facilities with very limited investment of personnel and resources.
- At a time when so many cultural outlets are threatened by strict capacity guidelines, social distancing and budget cuts, band and musical ensembles are some of the school's and community's brightest lights.