



Competitive Marching Season 2020 Announcement

Texas marching band continues to be one of the hallmark experiences for students involved in the robust music education offered to students across the state. The *social* and *emotional* benefits of this involvement take students well beyond just their high school experience. Marching band, in addition to providing important physical activity, also allows students to experience a level of performance artistry unique to the marching arts in the United States. The University Interscholastic League (UIL) continues to remain the guiding force behind the high quality music education students receive across Texas.

The educational aspects of the marching arts is a byproduct of the rigorously relevant process that staff and students engage in each fall to put together a high quality, cohesive team performance. Carefully crafted evaluation rubrics are utilized by the UIL to provide baseline evaluations at the region level each year, seeing to the consistently high standard of excellence we have to come to know and expect in the state of Texas.

Frisco ISD remains committed to providing these robust and relevant marching band experiences for students participating in all ten high school programs. While competitive marching band is an important motivational force, it is not and never will be the driving factor behind the wonderful programming provided to students by district music educators. Great music education is the byproduct of focusing on the process, not the product. In this way, music becomes the avenue for making student performers into better human beings, thus greatly improving the quality of our communities through the power of the arts.

After meeting with Frisco ISD high school band directors and collaborating together during these unprecedented times, we have made the difficult decision to suspend competitive marching events for the fall season due to concerns regarding the spread of COVID-19. Decisions regarding participation in the UIL Region evaluation will be made at a later date in light of recent information released. This decision is based solely on keeping the staff, students, and parents safety at the forefront of the marching band experience.

As you are aware, preparing for a competitive marching season involves a significant amount of time, planning, energy, and financial resources. This impacts the district, booster organizations, and individual families at multiple levels. The investment of all of these resources are of primary importance in this difficult decision making process.

Rest assured that each high school will produce a thoughtful marching show that is shorter in length, including a number of safety measures intended to ensure the safety of our staff and student participants. Information provided by TEA, UIL, and other governing entities will be used to continue refining and further defining these safety parameters. Directors will be prepared to share the specifics of these safety precautions with you prior to the beginning of marching band activities.

Shows will be designed to perform at football games as opportunities present themselves throughout the fall. The district continues to await information from TEA and UIL regarding participation at football games for marching band units. Frisco ISD will continue to actively monitor the situation, listen to the guidance of local health officials, and adjust plans throughout the fall accordingly.

For now, Frisco ISD band directors will share with you the specifics surrounding summer band activities, closely aligned with UIL guidance and parameters. The focus of the Frisco ISD Fine Arts department will be to continue providing opportunities for developing the whole child through immersive, integrated arts experiences. Our staff remains committed to devoting time, energy, and resources to providing student performers with outlets for emotional expressiveness through community, a hallmark of the marching band experience.

Staff and student health, safety, and well-being will continue to be at the forefront of the decision making process. Individual program directors will share more details in the coming days prior to the start of the summer band activity process. If you have additional questions, please reach out directly to your campus band director.

Thank you for your continued support of our incredible band programs in Frisco ISD.

Regards,



Preston Hazzard
Managing Director of Fine Arts
Frisco ISD

