

Blackman Middle School Band Mitigation Plan

In order to keep our students safe upon their return to the classroom, we are making the following procedural changes and modifications. These modifications are based on an ongoing scientific study from the University of Colorado regarding band instrument aerosols as well as reading the latest documentation from federal, state and local guidelines. We have also spent a great deal of time talking with administrators and other music educators on what the best practices for Blackman Middle would be.

Instrument drop off

Students will store instruments in the following areas in the morning before school begins: percussion on the auditorium stage, clarinet, sax and trumpet in the band room proper, flutes in the practice room hallway and trombones in the band room storage room.

Each student will have a marked space of their own where their instrument is kept. These will be easily accessible to students as needed.

Students will be in small groups as they enter these areas to drop off their instrument. We will monitor the number of students in these areas at all times.

Students will then proceed to their holding areas. There will be no morning band practice in the band room until further notice.

Daily Band Class Procedures

Students will be dismissed to band class on a staggered schedule as to avoid close contact in the hallways.

Upon entering the band hallway students will use hand sanitizer at the station provided.

They will then proceed to the place where their instrument is stored as noted above.

Students will be in small groups as they enter these areas to pick up their instrument. We will monitor the number of students in these areas at all times using an A/B system.

Most classes will range from 30 – 40 students. So we can easily limit the number of students in the large rooms that we will be using.

Each student will have a space of their own where their instrument is kept. Students will take their instrument to their seat with them. There will be room for this as we have designed it that way.

Band will take place in the auditorium primarily. Students will be seated six feet apart in all directions in the audience seats of the auditorium. Trombones will require more space and will be seated on the sides or in the front of the auditorium.

Percussionists will be on the stage distanced six feet apart.

Percussionists will be required to use their own sticks and will be assigned mallets that only they can use in class.

All percussion equipment (mallets, etc) will be disinfected at the end of class.

Each student will have their own music stand to use which will be disinfected at the end of each period/use.

The auditorium seating will be disinfected as well after each use.

Students will need to take their instrument home after class or return it to the spot where they picked it up. Students that are taking instruments home will be dismissed first then everyone else will be released on a staggered schedule to return their instrument to their spot.

Personal Protection

Each student is required to wear a mask in the school building.

Masks must be worn until the student is seated for class and is playing.

Brass, clarinet and sax players will have bell covers provided by the band.

Brass players will be given an absorbent pad to drain the moisture on out of their instruments. The pads will be picked up as the students enter the rehearsal area and disposed of on the way out.

Flutes will have a wind shield and extra spacing. This shield is provided by the band then kept up by the student.

The band will not play for longer than thirty minutes so aerosol admissions will be kept to a minimum or below for our room capacity.

The directors will wear masks and practice social distancing as much as applicable. If it is required that they touch a student's instrument they will use a new pair of plastic gloves and discard immediately afterward.

Hand sanitizer will be available at each entrance/exit way.

Facility

The auditorium is a very large room and will be capable of creating the distance needed between students as well as handling the amount of build up and discharge of aerosol formed during band class. The current ventilation and HVAC systems including filters should be adequate for our use.

The directors will use a wireless mic to talk to the students so that everyone can hear.

Lighting in the auditorium is being addressed and will be modified as needed.

The school administrators, directors and custodial staff will work together to ensure that the auditorium is limited in use and cleaned after each use.

Chairs, stands, mallets, or anything used by multiple students will be disinfected after each use.

Distance Learning

For students that choose the distance learning option at BMS and in the event that the band must distance learn as a whole, we will implement the following:

DL Lessons

The directors will provide either live stream or video recordings of the classroom lesson for that day of up to thirty minutes of class time.

Directors will provide video lessons available on the band website.

The band website will have available supplemental materials for students to enrich the concepts taught in class.

Students who distance learn will be required to submit assignments on SmartMusic. This software will be provided for free by Rutherford County Schools. The work will be checked and graded online. This will be a requirement for all students for some assignments.

Students will be required to submit an occasional video performance of an assignment so they can be evaluated by the directors. These video assignments will be done through FlipGrid. A very simple app that works on any computer or device.

Distance learning students will also be required to respond to emails and/or contacts in order for us to insure participation.

DL Performances

Distance learning students will be required to participate in virtual concerts/performances by submitting video performances through FlipGrid of assigned pieces.

Facility Modifications

The following photos show some of our current modification plans:



Band Room set up for 20 students at 6 feet apart in all directions. Doors can be opened for further ventilation. Trumpet storage shelves pictured on far right. Students will enter in small groups to get instruments and will be spread throughout the room.



Clarinet storage area in back of band room.



Saxophone storage area in band room. This will extend to the shelves on the right.
Easy access from the entrance way.



Flute storage area. Flute section sizes are smaller per class so this area works well.
Students will pass through from one room to the next in this area to pick up/drop
off their instrument.



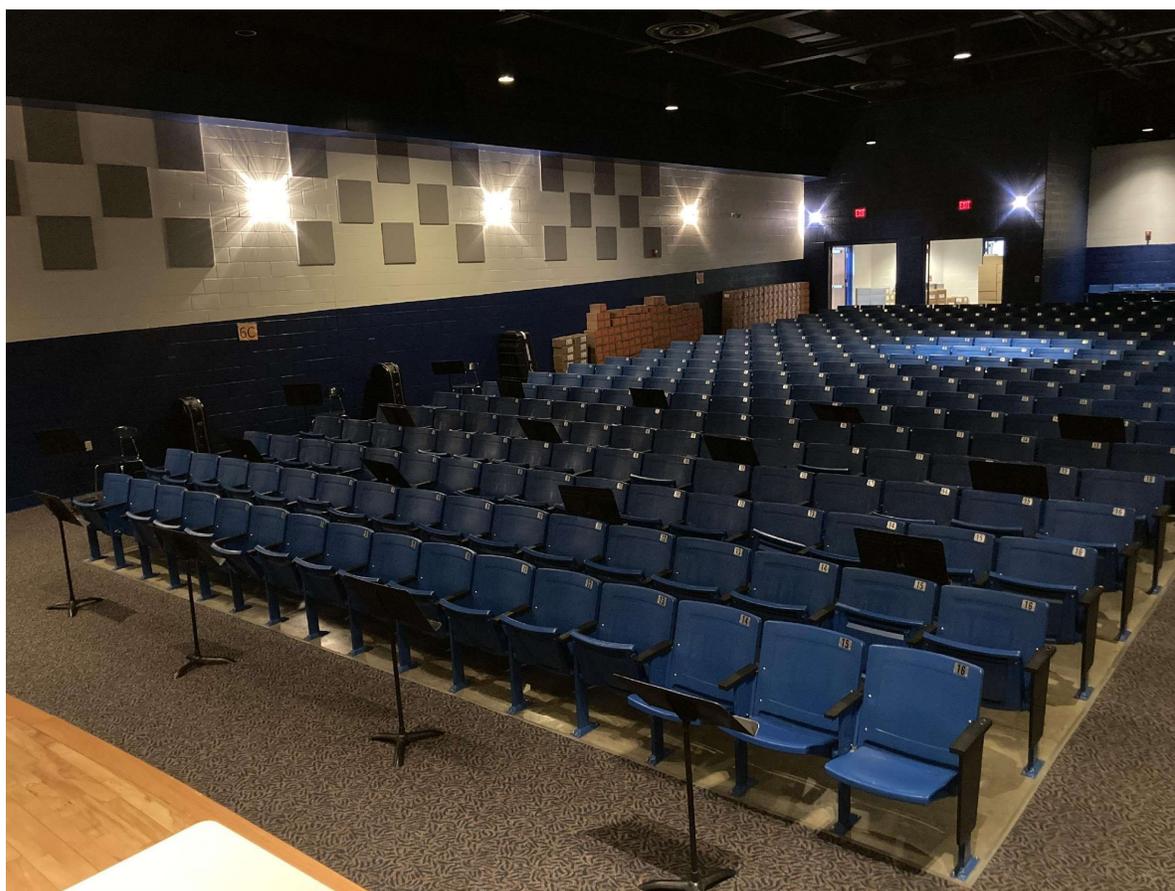
Percussion storage area on auditorium stage. Students will enter from one end and exit from the other.



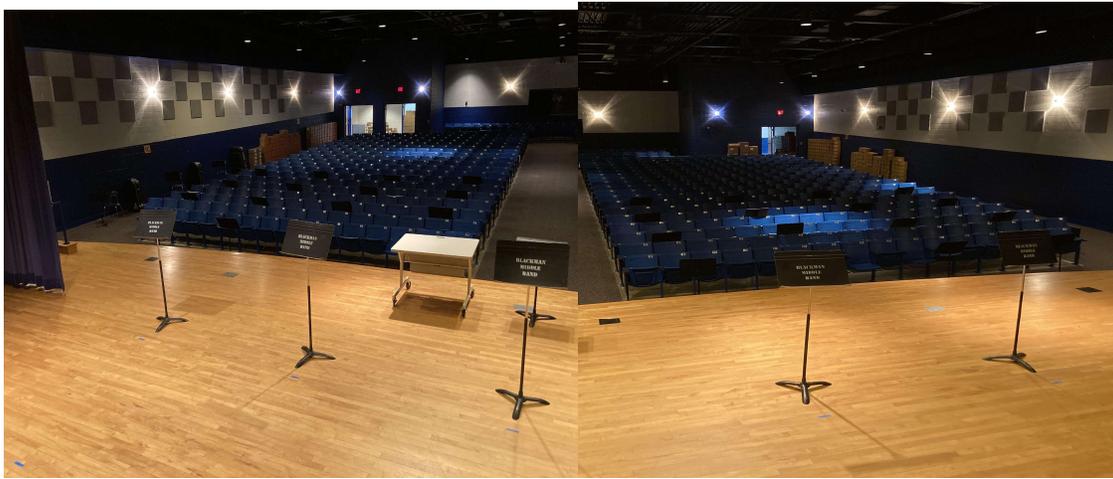
Percussion set up on the stage six feet apart in all directions. Students will rotate by number from mallets to snare. Snares will set up in front of stands standing on tape.



Right side auditorium set up six feet apart in all directions. Trombones will use front seats. Lighting issues will be addressed by the start of school.



Left side of auditorium. Tubas and basses will sit along the wall six feet apart plus room for their case or amp. partial set up pictured. Some classes will require expanded seating in blue seats.



Both sides set up. View from stage. Directors will be in front center stage. The large room helps disperse aerosols. All doors can be opened as well. (The boxes of books will be removed prior to the start of school and again, lighting is being addressed.)