

Greetings again everyone,

As we prepare to roll out distance learning next week, I wanted to check in with all of you and lay out some specifics that will help to give us the chance for a start that is smooth (as possible at least).

First of all, please know that all work from here on out will be given through a combination of Google Classroom, Google Meet and Flipgrid, so (in order to access this information and participate) you will need to do three things...

- (1.) Use class code **nwfjbn4** to access the Google Classroom page. Be sure to log in with your APS credentials.
- (2.) Be sure that you have **Flipgrid** installed on your device of choice for the purpose of uploading and sending video assignments. Flip codes for different purposes will be posted on the Google Classroom page.
- (3.) Be prepared to use **Google Meet**. Install it on your phone if necessary or simply navigate to the links I will provide (on the class page) in your laptop or desktop web browser.

SHS Bands Distance Learning Schedule	
Monday	Assignment of new materials for the week. Assignments will be posted and topics to be discussed will be announced (if this has not already been done).
	We will also use the morning (7:30 to 11:00) as <i>By Appointment Office Hours</i> .
	The afternoon will be reserved for departmental meetings and other intra-school business.
Tuesday	7:30-9:20 (AM) Prep time & <i>By-Appointment Office Hours</i> 9:00 - 9:30 (AM) Wind Symphony Discussion 9:45-10-15 (AM) Concert Band Discussion 10:30-11:00 (AM) Jazz Band Discussion 1:00-3:00 (PM) <i>By Appointment Office Hours</i>
Wednesday	7:30-9:20 (AM) Prep time & <i>By-Appointment Office Hours</i> 9:00-10:20 Open Office Hours* 10:30-11:00 (AM) Steel Band Discussion 1:00-3:00 (PM) <i>By Appointment Office Hours</i>
Thursday	7:30-9:20 (AM) Prep time & <i>By-Appointment Office Hours</i> 9:00 - 9:30 (AM) Wind Symphony Discussion 9:45-10-15 (AM) Concert Band Discussion 10:30-11:00 (AM) Jazz Band Discussion 1:00-3:00 (PM) <i>By Appointment Office Hours</i>
Friday	7:30-9:20 (AM) Prep time & <i>By-Appointment Office Hours</i> 9:00-10:20 Open Office Hours* 10:30-11:00 (AM) Steel Band Discussion 1:00-3:00 (PM) <i>By Appointment Office Hours</i>
Note: Appointments for office hour times are to be made through direct e-mail to north_t@aps.edu. Please do not use StudentVUE or ParentVUE.	

Secondly, please note that, while we will be using Google Meet frequently, I will be using our meetings primarily to check in with you, provide support, answer questions, organize future logistics and tell lame band-director jokes. Since band is a performance-based class, musical development opportunities will be given in the form of assignments that you complete and submit on your own – though we can discuss the assignments and questions therefrom during our Google Meet sessions. For any who may be wondering, *network latency is too great for full-ensembles of players to play together at the same time in an online class.*

Finally, please understand that, while I have provided a schedule of classes, I understand that you may not always be able to join our virtual discussions at that time due to life circumstances. It is my hope that I would be able to meet with you at minimum once a week to at least check in and ensure that you are safe and that you understand the materials at hand. We will be discussing many items of great import to the future of band operations (music for next year, student leadership, senior awards etc.), and the more of you who are able to participate, the better and stronger we will be.

Furthermore, while we are very fortunate to have a strong band program where virtually everyone* has already passed their band classes for the semester, choosing not to take advantage of the virtual class meetings or complete any of the assignments that are given will not only stall your own individual musical progress, but slow the progress of the band as a whole. Simply put, H. Jackson Brown once wrote, “Our character is what we do when we think no one is looking.” I’ll take the liberty of adapting that great thought into this one: Your dedication and success will be determined by the practice you do when you think no one is grading.

I hope you are all doing well and continue to do so. I look forward to “seeing” you next week. We have work to do!

Sincerely,

Tyler North
Director of Bands, Sandia High School

* Pun intended.