

Hello 8th Grade Band and Orchestra Families,

Monday, March 16th will be our last day for students to be in-school before launching our online learning sessions. While we will not be in class together, we will be interacting and working through Google Classroom. As band and orchestra are performance-based courses, we will be utilizing Google Drive, Google Classroom, and Google Hangouts **daily** for our class.

Assignments will be communicated to students through Google Classroom, and students are expected to meet deadlines for assignments. Students will need to download the following free apps onto their mobile device to help them with recording them playing their instruments:

- Google Drive
- Google Classroom **Band Course Code: fnphwb3 Orchestra Course Code: 6fjnfhg**
- Google Hangouts

When they download these three apps, they need to sign in with their SCHOOL email account and password. This will allow them to access not only their band/orchestra work, but the rest of their classes at Heskett. Students should have their instruments at home with them and will be uploading daily recordings of them practicing. Practice tips and step-by-step instructions for how to record and upload yourself practicing are stapled to this letter, and will be in our Google Classroom as well.

In Google Classroom, students should be checking the “Classwork” tab daily for new assignments. Under that same tab, there will be many resources to help students in our “Class Drive Folder”.

As of right now the Heskett Band students have their spring concert scheduled for Wednesday, April 8th. It is important that students are practicing their concert music daily so they are prepared in the event our concert date does not change. As I am given more information from administration from our event, I will be sure to communicate this to you as soon as possible. The orchestra concert is currently scheduled for May 20th.

I am available to answer emails at any time and will respond within 24 hours. Students and families will have the opportunity to have face-to-face contact with me daily either by phone or Google Hangouts to address any questions or concerns Monday--Friday between 10:00--11:00am and 2:00--3:00pm. Appointments are certainly welcome and encouraged and can be coordinated through email.

Best Wishes,

Ms. Jones
8th Grade Band and Orchestra Director

Email: rjones@bedford.k12.oh.us
Phone: (440) 439-4450 ext. 6521

PRACTICE GUIDELINE AND TIPS

1. Make sure you have everything set-up when you practice (instrument, music, valve oil, reeds, rosin). This way you won't have to constantly get up to get something!
2. Set a time-limit and a list of three goals for yourself and STICK TO THEM! For example:
 - a. Today I will practice 20 minutes. In those 20 minutes I will play long tones for 16 counts, lip slurs column 3, and work on measures 20-45 in my music.
3. Don't forget to warmup! Just like we do in class, when you start practicing you should take 5 minutes to warmup (playing long tones, tunings and bowings, lip slurs, and scales).
4. Practice things that you can't play well (yet)! While it is ok to play through things you can do well, most of your focus and time should be spent on sections that you find tricky. If you have any questions you can email me and we can set up a Google Hangout session.
5. Record yourself practicing and then immediately listen to the recording while looking at the music you just played. Sometimes it is easier to find any mistakes you made when you are only listening and not focusing on playing AND listening.
6. Practice SMALL sections. Only focus on around 4-8 measures at a time while you are practicing. Towards the end of your practice session is when you want to play larger sections.
7. Finally: it is ok to be frustrated! If something isn't working well, you can always come back to it later that day or tomorrow. The important thing is that you tried and you're coming back to it another time.

Golden Rule of Practicing

Start playing something that is easier for you

Work on something that's difficult

End with playing something that you enjoy

PRACTICE GUIDELINE AND TIPS

1. Download the Google Drive and Google Classroom apps onto your device. Their icons look like this:



2. Sign in to both of these apps using your **SCHOOL** email address. If you use another email address then you won't be able to upload any work.

3. Record yourself playing through your normal phone camera app (not on snapchat/instagram/etc.). I recommend using the front camera so you can watch yourself while playing.

4. Go to the Google Drive app and press the "+" symbol in the bottom right corner.

5. Press "**UPLOAD**" and select "**Photos and Videos**". This will open your device's camera roll. Select the video of you playing, then press "**UPLOAD**" again in the top right corner.

6. Your video file will have a name that is probably a random list of letters and numbers. If you look under the "**RECENTS**" tab then your video should appear near the top of a list. You can then rename it whatever you would like (for example "Ms. Jones playing quiz") so you can find it easier by selecting the video and pressing the 3 dots in the top right corner, then scrolling down to "**RENAME**".

7. Once you have your video uploaded into Google Drive, you can now submit it to Google Classroom. Select the assignment in Google Classroom you are working on and press the "**ADD**" button, then select "**GOOGLE DRIVE**". You will then be able to select the video you just recorded from Drive, and turn it in for credit.