



# GOLDEN GATE HIGH SCHOOL

*Home of the Titans*

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To all GGHS Titan Band Students, Parents, Families, and Supporters;

At this point, most of you are making decisions regarding the school options for this coming year. If you did not take the survey for school options, or you want to change your choice based on the changing information, you can still update this by contacting GGHS. This is an ever-evolving process and new information has been coming out daily. This communication comes as of August 7, 2020. Please know it will most likely continue to change.

We have every intention of having a marching band at GGHS this school year. Our band classes that are held during the school day (Jazz, Percussion, Auxiliary, and Concert Ensembles) will be offered. I hope the information below will help answer the many important questions and concerns that parents have sent to me the last few days. Please contact me ([kocses@collierschools.com](mailto:kocses@collierschools.com)) if I can provide any other information.

CCPS has been working with local health officials, individual school administrations and all CCPS high school band directors to determine what options are available for the marching band season. For the health and safety of all staff and students:

All CCPS marching band rehearsals, camps, meetings and in-person auditions are postponed until August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Follow this link for the CCPS opening of schools plan: <https://www.collierschools.com/reopening>

## **GGHS Titan Band Updates:**

### **Marching Band**

- The Florida Bandmaster's Association has cancelled all MPA's (contests) for marching band. The District 18 Marching MPA scheduled for October 24th has been cancelled.
- CCPS has cancelled the 2020 Collier County Band Show
- All CCPS marching band camps and rehearsals have been postponed until school begins. Titan Band Rehearsals will tentatively begin on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> and will maintain a Monday/Thursday evening rehearsal schedule. I will continue to work on the Titan Band calendar on our website, but it everything is still tentative at this time.



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- We will continue to support the GGHS football team with guidance by CCPS and FHSAA as far as band participation at games, social distancing and fans in attendance at football games. Once a decision is made by FHSAA, we will announce our game performance dates.
- We will only perform at home football games to remove the need for bus travel, and that schedule has not been completed at this time.

## **Course Scheduling with Options 1-3**

Clarification for the school options in relation to BAND:

- **OPTION 1 - Regular school.** You will be registered for BAND CLASS and will be required to be in MARCHING BAND (this is the NORMAL schedule of in person classes as it used to be). After school rehearsals are mandatory, but will be scheduled with safety precautions.
- **OPTION 2 - Set/Structured Virtual “Collier Connect”** - You CAN register for Band. You will be registered for BAND CLASS and will be required to be in MARCHING BAND. After school rehearsals are mandatory, but will be scheduled with safety precautions. You will be scheduled for your regular band period and will attend class virtually OR in person if you are able. You will play along with the class from your computer at home.
- **OPTION 3 - Flexible Virtual “Collier Connect”** - You CAN register for Band. You will be registered for BAND CLASS and will be required to be in MARCHING BAND. After school rehearsals are mandatory, but will be scheduled with safety precautions. You will be scheduled for your regular band period and will attend class virtually OR in person if you are able. If virtual, you will play along with the class from your computer at home.

ALL Band classes will be run at their designated period times and will not be flexibly scheduled. You will need to attend class at the correct time regardless of your “regular brick and mortar” or “virtual” selection.

“eCollier Academy” is not an option for high school at this time and you will have Golden Gate teachers regardless of your choice.

## **Auditions for Drum Line and Color Guard**

- Auditions for drum line and color guard (flag line) will be held virtually.
- Audition material is currently available on the band website. Please contact Ms. Kocses if you cannot find it. There will always be a spot for every student that wants to participate in the GGHS Titan Band.
- Returning guard students are not required to audition for guard and will maintain their current placement.



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- Students that are new to the program are encouraged to schedule Band 1 or Dance Techniques 1 (Color Guard) with their guidance counselor.
- If you are new to the band program and are interested in the Color Guard (flag line), please contact Ms. Sarah Kocses (kocses@collierschools.com).

## **Band Fees**

I have asked the GGHS Band Boosters to continue to lower the participation band fee to \$120.00 per student for the school year.

There is an additional maintenance and replacement fee for students who need to rent school owned instruments and auxiliary equipment.

- Base band fee for ALL students will be \$120.
- Percussion Equipment fee, Woodwind/Brass Rental, Guard Equipment fee is \$30.
- Dinkles (Marching Shoes) and Guard Shoes will be \$30.
- There will be additional purchases for guard for uniform, Wind Ensemble tuxedos/dresses, and Jazz Band ties

The band fee will include one pair of shorts and one shirt per student. Additional shirts and shorts can be purchased (limited supply available).

The band fee will return to 2019-2020 rates for the 2021-2022 school year. Currently we are planning on having Saturday, August 15th as a pickup day for students. Students will be able to pick up and purchase additional practice clothes, drop off payments and check to see if all required paperwork has been completed. We will send out a reminder with additional information, time and location closer to the date. Band fee payments can also be made at the scheduled pickup date.

Students will also be asked to participate in at least one fundraiser during the school year. Please note: There is a possibility that band fees will be lowered and adjusted accordingly if major changes to our program are made. The amount will not go up for the 2020-2021 school year.



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## Registration Paperwork

Registration paperwork is available on the band website at [www.titanband.net](http://www.titanband.net).

**\*NEW THIS YEAR\*** – Sports Physicals with form EL2 (included with our registration paperwork), COVID 19 Waiver, and PROOF OF INSURANCE is mandatory.

- School insurance can be purchased at <https://www.k12specialmarkets.com/> by searching for our school. I have posted the registration form in English and Spanish on our band website. You will need a minimum of the \$24 option for school day sports. If you already have a policy, you DO NOT need this additional insurance, just provide a copy of your insurance card.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding in these unprecedented times. Feel free to contact me for clarification and I will get the most updated information I can. I can't wait to make music again!

Sarah Kocses  
GGHS Titan Band Director