

## THE MID-STATES BAND ASSOCIATION: COVID-19 STATEMENT

**Executive Director: Richard Turner**

**President: Greg Mills**

The Mid-States Band Association (MSBA) was founded on the premise that the participating member bands, represented by their respective directors, control the direction of the organization. This principle is what makes the MSBA circuit unique in the marching band universe.

On Saturday, July 18, 2020 a virtual meeting was held by many of these directors. The topic of discussion and goal was to determine the direction of the organization for the 2020 fall season pertaining to the impact on school music programs of the Covid-19 virus.

After some extremely thoughtful discussion and many great ideas presented by those in attendance the consensus was as follows:

- ***The Mid-States Band Association will suspend all 2020 sanctioned marching competitive live performances that involve multiple bands. It is with an abundance of caution and concern for the health and safety of the students, staffs, parents and judging community that we reach this difficult and painful decision.***
- ***MSBA will search for and offer performance opportunities for individual bands yet to be determined. A select committee of band directors will make these proposed options available very soon. Some options may include on-site clinician(s) to any organization that requests it, virtual clinics and feedback from clinicians and adjudicators, etc. (Ideas “outside the box” from the MSBA band community are welcome and appreciated. Please forward ideas to Richard Turner)***
- ***In addition, if health conditions improve, a MSBA host school may decide to host an “independent” show, not sanctioned by MSBA. If such a choice is made and allowed by the local school, they may do so and utilize any of the MSBA sheets, Competition Suite program, rules and parameters that they would have available as a MSBA host. Under these unusual circumstances an independent show can alter rules as they see fit to accommodate current circumstances. We highly recommend that such a show be non-competitive and offer encouragement for the band members and most importantly allow the students to have a meaningful musical performance opportunity.***

It will be exciting to see how the many talented MSBA directors, staffs and students find ways to overcome all the restrictions they face. The Association wishes all safety, health and success in finding ways to present music. The Association stands ready to assist each of our member bands in any way possible.