

BACK TO SCHOOL

*Mrs. Marker--Junior High Music--August 2020--
<https://deubrookmusic.weebly.com/>*



JUNIOR HIGH MUSIC--NEW CHANGES, NEW YEAR

Welcome back to school! I am so excited to have you join us this year, whether it be for your first or second year at our junior high/high school in White. With a new year comes a few changes to our program, and the purpose of this letter is to fill you in on what to expect when you come to us in two weeks.

First, we are altering the format of our JH music classes to complement the set up we use in K-6 music: meet 2x/week and perform (sing) 2x/year. Each week, all of the 7th graders will come to music class on Mondays and Thursdays during 1A. 8th graders will come to music on Tuesdays and Fridays during 1A. On the days you're not in music class you'll be in your normal 1st period class (1B/1C) for study hall. Wednesday 1A will be left open for me to have small group lessons, honor band, MS All State Band, festival choirs, and for anyone who wants extra help (band or choir).

During our morning music we'll enjoy learning about song form, composers, history, vocabulary, writing/recording music, ukuleles, and more! Details regarding the scope and sequence of our class can be found on my website (<https://deubrookmusic.weebly.com/>).

CLASS PRECAUTIONS

Advice from Mrs. Marker

Since our music class size tends to be larger, on average, than other classes, we are taking the following precautions as to encourage social distancing and for the safety of our students:

- Meeting in the old gym instead of the music room
- Sitting in the bleachers, in marked areas
- Masks are recommended (not required) to wear during music class, especially during singing activities
- One-way traffic through the gym (enter through west side door, near music room, exit through the east side/cafe/cafeteria or by stage)
- Keep music folder in bag and not in common area of the music room

If you have specific questions or accommodations you'd like me to consider for your student, please let me know! You can contact me at kelsey.marker@k12.sd.us or by calling the school at 605-629-1101.

JH BAND INFORMATION

Junior high band will once again be during 7th period, the last class of the day, for a full period. We will no longer be requiring individual/small group lessons--instead, this will be optional for our JH band students. I will be available (most days) before and after school, as well as Wednesdays 1A for students to sign up for extra help. Hopefully we will have MS All State Band and honor band events available for our students this year, but we will have to see how the year goes regarding which events remain scheduled and which ones get postponed or cancelled. Nevertheless, we will strive for excellence in our students and program and challenge ourselves with new techniques and music!

Since we have removed pull-out lessons from our program, some class time will be designated for sectional (group) work. Students will be notified of these well ahead of time and will be working on other music assignments/projects during those times.

We'll be spending our class time among three locations: music room, old gym, and outside. Thanks to our generous donors through our GoFundMe project this summer, each JH band student will be receiving a binder, writing utensils, and pencil pouch to keep all band class materials/music/lesson book in. Each student will be receiving a copy of the music we use--we will not be sharing stands during rehearsal (each student will be on a single stand). Each percussionist will receive a set of sticks to use, and mallets will be disinfected between classes. If you would like to purchase a set of mallets for your student to use and not share, please contact me about what to purchase.

Watch for future information on pep band. At this time, there will be **no JH pep band** for football games; the HS band will be performing a half time show, but currently there will be no live pre-game music.

CONTACT INFO

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