



July 21, 2020

The Pflugerville ISD Fine Arts Department has been working diligently over the summer to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year. We realize that this year will be different because of the pandemic, but we also know that the arts are vitally important to the social and emotional health of many of our students, and therefore we must find a way to meet those students' needs however we can. Whether students are attending school virtually or in-person, we will continue to offer a variety of fine arts classes at each of our PflISD campuses. Our art, dance, music, and theatre teachers are excited and ready to get back to working with our students!

The safety and health of our students and teachers is always our number one priority. The need for social distancing to protect their well-being has made it clear that many of our traditional large, in-person events will not be possible in the fall semester. This includes competitive marching band shows, musicals, and other similar productions. The decision to temporarily suspend these large-scale, in-person performances and competitions was not taken lightly, and we will continue to follow the guidance of our local health authorities on when we can safely return to these activities.

While we mourn the temporary loss of these shared experiences with our community, we also fully commit to providing high-quality instruction and creative outlets for students in all of our fine arts programs during this time. Pflugerville ISD's commitment to providing technology to every student will open up the door to many new learning opportunities within the fine arts. We look forward to engaging students in virtual auditions, performances, and competitions. The Texas Music Educators Association is developing a virtual audition process for middle school and high school students who wish to be part of the all-region and all-state ensembles, and our PflISD elementary fine arts teachers are planning their first Virtual Elementary Fine Arts Showcase. We will keep you informed as more of these opportunities arise in each of our fine arts disciplines.

Our students are our greatest asset, and we are extremely grateful for the ability to continue teaching them safely, even amidst a global health crisis. Through arts education, students learn to express their emotions, think critically, build self-esteem, set goals, and appreciate cultural diversity. We are confident that all of these benefits will positively impact them now and well into their future. We eagerly anticipate displaying their creativity and celebrating their new accomplishments with you this year. Thank you for your ongoing support of the fine arts!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marnie Hamze'.

Director of Fine Arts, Pflugerville ISD