



NORTH CAROLINA BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION

A division of the *North Carolina Music Educators Association*

June 12, 2020

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North Carolina Bandmasters Association,

Friends, we are living in uncharted waters. There is no template for the responsibilities of your Bandmasters President during a pandemic. I assure you I have been having conversations with executive board members and other directors across the state. As we are all aware, I do not have any answers, but I wanted to make sure you all knew I was in your corner. I will continue to do all I can to advocate for each of you. NCMEA and NCBA are currently working on more specific recommendations and will be releasing those in then next week or two.

I do want to say my number one goal is and always will be keeping our students safe. Our individual programs and situations are all so different. There is not going to be one answer that works for everyone. Our governor will share guidelines in July and then LEA's will each make more specific plans. It is paramount for each of us to be advocates in our own school systems.

I think it is important to remember a few things: 1) We will get through this. 2) Band will not look the same this year. 3) Be flexible. 4) Be creative - think "outside the box." 5) Keep your students engaged in your class whether in person or remotely. 6) We do this because of a mutual love of MUSIC.

I wish I had a better answer for you, but there are so many unknowns at this time. Please, don't hesitate to reach out if I can help you in any way.

Sincerely,

Jason M. Barclift, President
North Carolina Bandmasters Association