Dear Parent/Guardian,

The DeKalb County School District will allow students participating in marching band, auxiliary groups associated with marching band, and JROTC to voluntarily begin practicing after the completion of the local cleaning procedures and the approval of the pod practice schedule. Students will participate in conditioning, marching techniques, drill techniques, and musical techniques during weekly pod practices. In order to minimize contact, students will use personal or assigned equipment or instruments during all activities.

The District is committed to making every effort to adhere to the safety and health guidelines and recommendations provided by the Georgia Department of Public Health, DeKalb Board of Health, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Preventative measures in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 include, but are not limited to:

a. requiring all students and staff members to wear a face covering or mask;
b. requiring students and staff to bring bottled water;
c. providing hand sanitizer and disinfectant;
d. placing signage at the school to encourage social distancing;
e. requiring pre-screening checks prior to participating in any approved activity;
f. limiting pod practice to a maximum of two-hour intervals with a 30-minute cleaning transition between pods;
g. creating assigned pods consisting of one adult and twenty students; and
h. cleaning high touch areas, equipment, and instruments with approved cleaning supplies.

In anticipation of a safe return to conditioning next week, please read the DeKalb County School District Return to Participation Guidelines. Please sign, date, and return the form if you accept all requirements for your child to participate in marching band, auxiliary groups associated with marching band, or JROTC approved practices and activities. Your child may not participate until the signed acknowledgement form and waiver are on file.

Please know that if you have any reservations about conditioning and reintegrating, your child is NOT required to participate. Your child will not be penalized for non-participation.

If you have any questions, please contact ___________________________ (Insert employee’s name) at ___________________________@dekalbschoolsga.org (Insert employee’s work email address). Thank you in advance for your support and adherence to the guidelines.

Sincerely,

XXXXX
Principal

DeKalb County School District
Return to Participation Guidelines

The DeKalb County School District will resume athletic/auxiliary practices and participation in events under the requirements listed below. The DeKalb County School District will continue to monitor the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Georgia Department of Public Health, DeKalb Board of Health and our medical partners to determine any potential modifications and need to adjust. Health data will be reviewed daily.

Requirements for Participation in Activities

Students may participate in athletic/auxiliary activities only upon receipt of this signed form and filed waiver. Each school will have staff designated to ensure that health protocols are being implemented and followed. Schools should follow requirements of state and local authorities in addition to the requirements below. Participation in athletic/auxiliary activities will be optional for students and staff. No student or employee will be required to participate in athletic/auxiliary activities.

Before the start of daily practices and activities, students should be pre-screened for COVID-19 symptoms to determine if they or others living in their house have experienced any symptoms on the below list. Schools should take the temperature of each student daily at the start of the session.

COVID-19 Symptoms for Screening

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste of smell
- Diarrhea
- Feeling feverish/measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with someone with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19

Students cannot participate in athletic or auxiliary activities if they have a fever, determined by a thermometer reading 100.4 or higher or are exhibiting signs of flushed cheeks, fatigue, chills, shivering, sweating, achiness, headache, not eating or drinking.

Any student who was diagnosed with COVID-19 may return to participation in activities if all of the following criteria are met: at least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath); and at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared. For students diagnosed with COVID-19 that never develop symptoms, students may return to participation 10 days after the date of their first positive test.

Any student or staff member exposed to an individual who experiences any of the symptoms of COVID-19, whether that individual has a positive COVID-19 test or not, should self-isolate for two weeks. If the student or staff member does not experience any COVID-19 symptoms during that period, they can return to participation in practice or rehearsal after ten days. If the exposed student or staff member experiences symptoms, they must self-isolate until the criteria outlined above have been met.
Parents should drop-off outside the building to limit contact. We do not encourage students who are not members of the same household to ride together. To minimize usage of restrooms/locker rooms, students must report to athletic or auxiliary activities in proper attire. No clothing or towels should be shared during activities.

Schools should limit the total number of participants based on available space to allow for the appropriate distancing between students and staff. During participation in activities, staff will monitor implementation of appropriate social distancing, hygiene, and safety measures.

Students should maintain at least six feet of distance from all sides when not actively participating, practicing or rehearsing. Students who are not actively participating should wear face masks.

If a student uses a piece of equipment, that equipment should be thoroughly sanitized and disinfected before another student uses it. Schools should limit the use of equipment to further reduce the risk of spreading the virus. We encourage students to utilize hand sanitizer while participating in activities.

Students will need to bring their own labeled water. Water fountains will not be available.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK**

I understand that my student’s participation in athletic/auxiliary activities is entirely voluntary and that by electing to participate, they assume the risk of injury and/or infection with infectious disease including COVID-19. I acknowledge the seriousness of the risks involved in participating in this program including possible infection with COVID-19, which can result in serious illness up to death. I acknowledge my personal responsibilities for adhering to rules and regulations, and accept them as a participant. I will emphasize the importance of following safety precautions with my student, including mask wearing, social distancing and appropriate usage of sanitizer and hand washing.

(Please sign, date, and return the bottom portion to the school before student is allowed to participate in any activity.)

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**DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Student participation in athletic and extracurricular activities is a privilege afforded to students by the DeKalb County School District (District). As a condition of your student’s participation in District extracurricular and athletic programming, including practice and/or conditioning programs, parent/guardian must sign the following release. Please understand that student’s participation in athletic and extracurricular activities and events during the regular school year is entirely voluntary, as is your execution of the below waiver. Signature of this form is required to allow for student participation.

IN CONSIDERATION OF ____________________________ (Student) being allowed to participate in the DeKalb County School District’s athletic and extracurricular (marching band, auxiliary group, and/or JROTC) programs and related events and activities, the undersigned acknowledges and agrees to the following:

I understand that the risks of injury and illness (ex: communicable diseases, such as influenza, tuberculosis, pneumonia, hepatitis and COVID-19) to student from the activities involved in these programs are significant. Further, student may sustain physical injury or illness (minimal, serious or catastrophic) in connection with his/her participation and interaction with other students, including the potential for permanent disability and death. While safety rules, equipment, and hygiene may reduce these risks, the risks of serious injury and illness cannot be eliminated. The risk to have contact with individuals, who have been exposed to, who are currently infected with or who have been diagnosed with one or more communicable diseases, including but not limited to COVID-19, other medical conditions, diseases, or infections does exist. It is impossible to eliminate the risk that student could be exposed to and/or become infected through contact with or close proximity with an individual with a communicable disease if he/she elects to participate in District athletic or extracurricular activities and events. In addition to the risk of infection posed to student by possible infection, this may put others that Student has close contact with at risk of infection. I understand that if student, student’s family or household members have underlying health conditions or a compromised immune system, they may be more susceptible to risk of infection and/or illness, including COVID-19, and I have carefully considered these risks and consulted as appropriate with a licensed healthcare provider prior to making any decision regarding student’s voluntary participation in athletic or extracurricular activities.

Therefore:

1. I, for myself and on behalf of student and student’s parents, guardians, heirs, executors, administrators, assigns and next of kin, knowingly and freely acknowledge and assume all such risks, both known and unknown, and full responsibility for Student’s participation; and

2. I, for myself and on behalf of student and student’s parents, guardians, heirs, executors, administrators, assigns and next of kin, hereby release, discharge, indemnify, and agree to hold harmless the DeKalb County School District (DCSD), Members of the DCSD Board of Education, its past, present and future officers, attorneys, agents, employees, predecessors and successors in interest, and assigns, hereinafter “DCSD releasees”, from any and all liability arising out of or in connection with student’s participation in athletic and extracurricular activities and related events. For purpose of this Release, liability means all claims, demands, losses, causes of action, suits, or judgments of any kind that Student and Student’s parents, guardians, heirs, executors, administrators, assigns and next of kin have or may have against the DCSD releasees because of student’s personal, physical, or emotional injury, accident, illness or death, or because of any loss of or damage to property that occurs to student or student’s property during participation in athletic and
extracurricular activities and related events due to acts of passive or active negligence by DCSD releases other than actions involving fraud or actual malice.

3. I, for myself and on behalf of student and student’s parents, guardians, heirs, executors, administrators, assigns and next of kin, assume all liability and responsibility for any and all potential or real risks, injuries or even death which may result from student’s participation in athletic and extracurricular activities and related events. I represent and warrant that I know of no mental or physical condition or illness, including symptoms, infection or known exposure of student to COVID-19 or other communicable disease, that would make it unsafe for student to participate in inter-scholastic athletics, sports teams/clubs and events, whether based upon risk to student or other participants. I understand, acknowledge, and agree that the DeKalb County School District shall not be liable for any injury/illness suffered by the student or another individual which arises out of and/or is associated with student’s participation in athletic and extracurricular activities and related events.

4. I further understand that the District has established rules and regulations pertaining to conduct, behavior, activities, health/hygiene and the safety/wellbeing of all students by which my child must abide during participation in this program. These include rules to mitigate the risk of spread of communicable disease, including but not limited to COVID-19. Student and I accept the risk and will be responsible for his/her failure to abide by these rules.

5. I willingly agree to comply with the program’s stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If I observe any unusual concern regarding my child’s wellness and fitness for participation whether mental or physical, I will immediately remove my child from participation and bring to attention of a coach, District staff or nearest official immediately. This requirement includes immediate notice and removal of student from athletic and/or extracurricular participation due to any COVID-19 (or other communicable disease) symptoms, confirmed or suspected infection and confirmed or suspected exposure; and

6. I, the parent/guardian, assert that I have explained to student: the risks of the activity, his/her responsibilities for adhering to the rules and regulations, the importance of health-safety guidelines to mitigate the risk of spread of COVID-19 or other communicable disease, and that Student understands and agrees to abide by this agreement.

By signing below, parent/guardian and student hereby grant permission for student’s participation in athletic and/or extracurricular activities and events for DeKalb County School District. Signing below indicates acknowledgement that undersigned and student have carefully reviewed and agree to all above terms of athletic and extracurricular participation, including voluntary waiver, release and assumption of risk, fully understand its terms, along with the risk, and acknowledge that it has been signed freely, voluntarily and without inducement.

(Please sign, date, and return the bottom portion to the school before student is allowed to participate in any activity.)

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**School Only**

Received By: | Date Received: