

KEY MESSAGES – for use when communicating with school administrators or Board Trustees

- Even if COVID infections rise again, there is no need for the pandemic to cause our youth to miss out on the **full** benefits of band. The research is in - with mitigations in place, band programs & playing instruments together can be done safely.
- Decisions to cut Band programs based on registration or participation numbers are premature and unfair. Band programs need time to recover from the specific programming reductions imposed during the pandemic. It is only fair to Band teachers, current and future students that **time and support be provided to encourage a full recovery** before any cancellations are considered.
- School boards are faced with difficult decisions due to funding limitations. When making budgetary and scheduling decisions we urge administrators to remember the many health, social and educational benefits our children receive by participating in band.
- School boards have a responsibility to ensure that all students are treated equally. Ensuring that Arts programs, such as Band, are valued and receive the same level of support as sports and other programs is essential in meeting all students' needs.
- Careful consideration should be given to long-term school and community impacts **before** cutting Band programs. History has demonstrated that, once cut due to low enrolment in a given year, restarting a Band program is not the same as other classes – resulting in permanent closures.