7th and 8th grade band students and parents:

I know all of you are wondering what is going to happen this upcoming school year and I wish I could give you more information but at this time I just don't have it. I posted an update for 6th grade band parents and students letting them know that we have decided not to offer beginning band this year due to the health concerns. You all know how down and dirty we get with those beginning kids and we just could not see a way to effectively teach that class without compromising the health and safety of everyone involved. It breaks my heart that I won't get to see and teach a new crop of kids this year who are eager to join our band family but right now we just don't see a way to make it happen safely.

For all of you 7th and 8th graders, again I wish I had news but I just don't. For this year we're going to have to really make some changes as to what "band" looks like and you can rest assured that no one is working harder than your band teachers to try to make sure that whatever we can do will help you become the musician you want to be. The only thing I can say for certain right now is that we love you and are committed to making sure we do what is best for you given our current conditions. The minute I know more about what is going on I will let you know.

I know that for some of you this may make you decide to not continue with band and, while I hate the thought of not having you around as part of our group, I can't fault you for your feelings. The only thing I can do is encourage you to continue playing and learning and letting us help you get better so when this craziness goes away we can come back together and make some of the best music the world has ever heard. If you feel like you need to move on you will not have any ill will from me but please don't make that decision just based on this year. Weigh your options and think about what staying with it might do to help you with your future. Remember, we will get past this and hopefully get back to some sort of normal schedule. Don't give up just because of COVID.

You might be worried and have a lot of questions and that's perfectly understandable. If that's the case and you want to talk to me please don't hesitate to reach out. Email me, call me, text me. Whatever. I am here to answer your questions and listen to your concerns about anything (not just band).

I'm so sad as I write this because I know there isn't anything I can do to change what's happening and I sure wish I could but we have to keep moving forward and that's what we're going to do. I just got done with 2 weeks of virtual training with my Army unit so to take a term from that part of my life, we are going to "adapt and overcome." And we'll come out on the other end stronger, more flexible, more understanding, and ready to take on whatever life throws at us.

If you need/want to talk please use the info below to contact me:

becky.jones@usd469.net

(913)229-6542 (call or text)

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jones