

Goldthwaite Cheer

**By Alex Biddle
Cheer Sponsor**

Our cheer team was very successful in the 2019-2020 season. We started off last summer by competing well in camp, taking home many team and individual awards. We competed as a team in the UIL State championships in Ft. Worth in January and came in 10th overall.

We plan on attending the competition again this 2021 Spring if Covid allows competitions to proceed!

Last year's team also had the privilege of having 3 All American cheerleaders; Lane Dowell, Ellie Petersen, and Shilah Schwartz, attend the London New Years day parade, and our All American mascot, Wyatt Adams, participated in the Citrus Bowl halftime show. Lane Dowell

has also decided to continue his education and cheering career at Tarleton State!

This year during camp we had 6 cheerleaders and our mascot named All American who will have the option of attending events like these. Those cheerleaders and mascot were: Ellie Petersen, Shilah Schwartz, Maris Taylor, Brooke Caldwell, Abbey Patrick, and Wyatt Adams.

Brianna Singleton and Ellie Petersen also received individual awards from the UCA staffer during our home camp.

As far as effects of Covid on our season so far, our usual summer sleep away camp turned into a home camp, and we will have to get used to practicing social distancing



even as a cheer team. Which means limiting stunts and using more props like signs and flags.

We plan on still having pep rallies

and cheering at football games for the time being and continuing to cheer for our Eagles!

Golden Eagle Band

**By Susan Reynolds
GCISD Band Director**

"Guidance" is a new buzzword that means, "New, ever changing, and sometimes ill-thought-through mandates from on high." And boy, do we have guidance! It's hard to plan when the rules change every few days! It seems to be nothing but bad news and unworkable restrictions, too. I would be specific, but it would change tomorrow, so...

BUT, there seems to be some good news for bands that is backed and suggested by real science. The College Band Directors' National Association, CU Boulder and the University of Maryland among others have partnered for an unprecedented study of aerosols coming from wind instruments and how to reduce them. Lead researchers are Dr. Shelly Miller, CU Boulder, an expert on indoor air quality and how HVAC systems relate to infectious disease, and Dr. Jelena Srebric, U of M, a me-

chanical engineer and expert in fluid mechanics who got her doctorate from MIT (1).

Currently, the TEA is requiring 10 feet of space between students as they are playing, whether they are indoors or outdoors. This study suggests strategies to safely reduce that distance to 6 feet or less (2). This is what we plan to do in Goldthwaite to allow the kids to play safely. According to the study, "Wind instruments produce aerosol, which varies by instrument as well as intensity. Trends that the team has measured include: -Woodwinds have aerosol coming from keyholes and bells. -Brass have aerosols coming from the bell. At this time, it appears that if players wear surgical style masks with a slit for mouthpiece AND bell covers, aerosol emission is reduced. Flute players can put the headjoint between their mouth and mask." (2) That, ladies and gentlemen, is what we intend to do. What are bell cov-

ers, you say? You've seen bands that have covers on their tuba bells, right? Now, everybody gets one!

Because of the spacing requirement, our students still can't do much of a marching show, but we will try really hard to keep our audience entertained. The drum majors are Emy Jernigan and Maddy Sutherland. The twirlers are Kaitlyn Baird and Addi Lee. The band is a bit smaller than last year, but they will be strong. I'm even thinking of changing the name from Golden Eagle Band to Mighty Golden Eagle Band!

Reminder: Students who did not get a preparticipation physical exam last year for band OR athletics need to get one this year. To clarify, if the student had a physical last year for athletics, they don't need one this year for band.

• General Information on CU Boulder study <https://nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-interna->

tional-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/

• Preliminary Recommendations <https://nfhs.org/media/4029971/preliminary-recommendations-from-international-performing-arts-aerosol-study.pdf>



Maddy Sutherland and Emy Jernigan

GHS Band Drum Majors