

Elementary Chorus and Music Reopening Plan

The preference of choral and general music teachers is to be teaching within our own classrooms face-to-face with students. In order to create a safe environment for students and staff, the following suggestions are based upon research gathered from national music organizations, online articles and conversations with music teachers and fine arts supervisors across the state.

Elementary Chorus

Screening:

- Following school district guidelines for screening, documenting and isolating symptomatic students especially for schools with before-school rehearsals.
- Be self-aware of possible symptoms and procedures.
- Elementary Before School Chorus: Have a plan in place for notification of chorus cancellation in the event teacher wakes up not feeling well and cannot attend before school rehearsals.
Suggestions: Remind App, ClassDojo, etc.

Hygiene:

- Display student-friendly COVID19 Print Materials.
- Review procedures and practice personal hygiene:
 - Have hand sanitizer readily available as students enter and exit doors.
 - Wash hands with soap and water after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
 - Avoid touching face.
 - Have tissues readily available and remind students to cough and sneeze inside of elbow.
 - Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
 - Designate one person (preferably teacher or adult volunteer) to operate sound and other technology equipment. Wash hands prior to touching and clean frequently.
 - Teach proper techniques for cleaning of choral face shields and/or masks.
 - Students provide individual water bottles labeled with name.

Social Distancing:

- Space students 6 ft. apart, if possible. Spacing marked accordingly.
- If practice rooms are available, social distance as space allows.
- For large ensembles, alternative spaces or outdoor locations could be considered that allow social distancing when rehearsing full group. Suggestions: Cafeteria, outdoor space, etc.

Limiting Exposure:

- Limit non-essential visitors and volunteers as much as possible.
- Follow guidelines for social distancing and have students use the same assigned space for each rehearsal.
- Follow district guidelines for wearing a face shield or face mask while singing. Have plan in place for how to handle situations where students arrive without face protection. Suggestion: Have extra face shields and/or masks available.
- Create smaller ensembles. Consider meeting twice a week in smaller groups as opposed to once in a large group.

- Consider having some students sing while others work on audiation, humming, rhythm exercises, marking music, computer music activities, etc. to limit all singing at once.
- Students face the same direction while singing.
- Provide folders and music for each student. Folders should either be taken home or kept in individually slotted choral cabinets in the room.
- Eliminate sharing of music.
- Keep extra copies on hand for students who forget to bring folders to rehearsal.
- Predetermine how new music will be passed out to students to limit exposure. Suggestion: Teacher hand out music as students enter the room or have music on chairs/designated student space.
- Eliminate use of water fountains in the choral room. Consider allowing students to bring water bottles properly labeled with student's name.
- If pencils are used, consider having students keep in folders to eliminate sharing.
- Plan for entrance and dismissal procedures that allow social distancing with one-way traffic as much as possible
- Eliminate lost and found stations.
- Avoid use of fans.
- If air purification devices are found to be effective for controlling viruses, district should consider providing one for the choral room.

Resources:

Arts Education is Essential

https://nafme.org/wp-content/files/2020/05/Arts_Education_Is_Essential-unified-statement.pdf

National Association for Music Education

<https://nafme.org>

American Choral Directors Association

<http://acda.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ACDA-COVID-19-Committee-Report>

CDC Print Materials

<http://cdc.gov>

Elementary General Music:

Screening:

- Be aware of school guidelines and procedures concerning COVID19.
- Be self-aware of possible symptoms and procedures.

Student and Teacher Hygiene:

- Display student-friendly COVID19 Print Materials.
- Teach proper hygiene to students including hand washing, and techniques for sneezing and coughing into elbow.
- Schedule regular time for handwashing or use of hand sanitizer. Suggestion: If hands-free stations are not available, general classroom teacher OR music teacher squirt hand sanitizer on student hands as they enter AND exit the music room.

- Teacher should wash hands with soap and water often, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
- Avoid touching face.
- Have tissues readily available.
- Designate one person (preferably teacher or adult volunteer) to operate sound and other technology equipment. Wash hands prior to touching and clean frequently.
- Place personal items in the same space every day. Suggestions: Purse, school bag, etc. in office area.

Social Distancing:

- Space students 6 ft. apart, if possible. Spacing could be marked using chairs, tape or colored space maker dots.
- Monitor students as they enter and exit rooms based on school district guidelines for social distancing.

Limiting Exposure:

- Limit non-essential visitors and volunteers in the music classroom.
- Plan for entrance and dismissal procedures that allow social distancing with one-way traffic as much as possible.
- Avoid use of fans.
- Eliminate lost and found stations.
- Eliminate use of water fountains.
- Students should use the same assigned space each time they come to music. Suggestions: Assigned seats or floor spots that allow for social distancing.
- If tactical objects are used, teachers would create a plan to use on alternate days/time periods with students to allow for ample cleaning time.
- Singing best practices:
 - Students all face the same direction when singing.
 - Sing in smaller groups as opposed to whole group.
 - Use humming during learning process more frequently rather than open mouth singing.
 - Extend use of audiation, rhythm skills, body percussion, etc.
- Avoid working in circles.
- Avoid choreography that includes vigorous body movements.
- If music centers are used, practice social distancing and plan for disinfecting of tables, chairs, etc.
- Eliminate games and other activities where students touch one another.
- Eliminate sharing of pencils, crayons, books, etc.
- Eliminate use of recorders during the 2020/2021 school year. Research coming out on 6/29 that may offer better guidelines.
- If ukuleles are used, each student should have their own or ample time should be allowed for proper cleaning.

- Avoid sharing; however, if students need to share media, equipment or instruments:
 - Students should wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after use. Disposable, non-latex gloves may also be appropriate.
 - Items should be disinfected before other students use materials.
- Follow district guidelines concerning the wearing of face masks.
- Since most music rooms do not have windows, the district should consider providing some type of air purification systems, if they prove to be effective for controlling viruses.

Scheduled Cleaning for music room:

- Allow access to training on proper cleaning of instrument/tactical objects.
- Provide proper cleaning supplies, especially for instruments.
- Door handles should be disinfected between classes
- If necessary, shared materials should be disinfected between student use.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
- Allow time in the schedule between classes for cleaning of tactical objects and instruments (if these are going to be used). If that is not possible, limit use.
- Time between classes needs to be scheduled so that teachers can sanitize the classroom before the next class enters.
- Refer to product guides such as NAFME and Yamaha percussion product disinfectant/cleaning for proper sanitation and care of instruments.

Most schools start first period of first school day bringing students to special area classes. Schools may want to consider (grades K-1) allowing a few days (or one-color rotation) for students to be taught social distancing procedures and safety guidelines for the school environment. During that time, the special area teacher could go to the classroom and assist with teaching these guidelines or teach a basic lesson.

Elementary Music in the event of Remote Learning

- Maintain regular schedule for music as outlined through the individual school.
- Standards-based lessons should be created ideally using Quaver, our district adopted instructional material.
- Teacher should provide lesson on how to sign in to Quaver and locate assignments.
- Follow district guidelines concerning requirements for lessons for meeting standards and maintaining proper documentation for grading.