

Secondary Chorus and Music Reopening Plan

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.

Middle and High School Chorus

Hygiene:

- Consider displaying age-appropriate 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 scheduling more class periods of chorus which may cause need for staff changes for other subject areas.
- Consider simplifying repertoire that would allow for less students on parts and/or singing in unison, cannon or partner songs. This would allow for less rehearsal preparation, as well.
- Consider having some students sing while others work on audiation, humming, rhythm exercises, marking music, computer music activities, etc. to limit large group singing.
- 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 labelled 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.

Remote Learning:

- Maintain regular schedule for chorus as outlined through the individual school.
- Standards-based lessons should be created ideally using *ChoralTracks* (Requested through CARES ACT Funding) and other software/online resources.
- Teacher should provide lesson on use of technology and software programs.
- Follow district guidelines concerning requirements for lessons for meeting standards and maintaining proper documentation for grading.

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://nafeme.org>

American Choral Directors Association

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

CDC Print Materials

<http://cdc.gov>