



MMEA Resource Fall 2020: Band

Fall 2020 Guidance for Music Education

Prepared by the National Federation of State High School Associations
and the National Association for Music Education

<https://nafme.org/my-classroom/fall-2020-guidance-music-education-from-nfhs-nafme/>

Missouri Music Educators Association Addendum to the Missouri School Board guidelines for reopening.

Missouri Music Educators Association Covid-19 Recommendations CDC's current guidance, updated in March 2020, is for the implementation of social distancing practices and provides a suggestion for how school classes may be modified to accommodate social distancing, which is included in the recommendations for modifications below. ALL efforts should be made to modify activities rather than canceling Music Education classes and activities. Music Education can be modified like all other classes.

MMEA Ensemble/Classroom Guidelines

1. Reorganize to allow for smaller classes and social distancing (Goal: 6 feet).
2. Alternate schedule - minimize numbers of students in the music classrooms, require social distancing (Goal: 6 feet).
3. Determine room capacity. What is square footage of your room?
 - 3.1. Students at 6 feet apart = 36 square feet per student.
 - 3.2. 20 students in class multiplied by 36 square feet = 720 square feet needed for safe environment.
 - 3.3. Mark chair location with tape on floor. Straight/flat rows facing the same direction

is recommended.

3.4. While sacrificing a higher ceiling for more floor space will provide the distancing necessary, an effort must be made to consider the cubic feet of the rehearsal space in order to reduce damage to hearing.

4. Utilize other available classrooms for sectionals or group rehearsals where social distancing is achievable.
5. Ensure that all instructional rooms have proper ventilation.
6. Limited and monitored restroom usage.
7. Teachers use controlled entrance and exits so students are not entering and exiting through the same door if possible.
8. Use separate partitions in the open spaces (large classrooms);
 - 7.1. Utilize markings on classroom floor/wall/practice field (marching band) - (student section/work stations).
9. Manage social distancing when moving students to/from multiple rehearsal spaces
10. Students should be provided or should bring their own equipment for class/prohibit equipment sharing.
11. Disinfect equipment between classes.
12. Students disinfect hands in and out of the music classrooms (hand-sanitizing stations).
13. Avoid touching, choreography, singing/playing in circles.
14. Blended Learning/Flipped classroom for concepts and skills relating to each standard.
15. Teachers have access to technology to broadcast instruction due to increased social distancing (ex. Megaphone or microphone).
16. Teachers have the ability to communicate for safety purposes. (ex. Walkie talkie).
17. Bell coverings for instruments and flute guards for flutes should be utilized for indoor rehearsals.

18. Self-Management - Individualized programs-multiple activity stations allowing for personal choice with personal recording (record keeping, personalized logs, goal setting, etc).
19. Activities that require close contact or potential contact with another person should not be included. Provide lessons that include no contact activities and no or limited equipment (e.g. solo, small ensemble, sectional rehearsals, etc).
20. Equipment and practice rooms should consider strategies for social distancing throughout the activity.
21. All efforts should be made at every level to assist students in creating personal activities and rehearsal plans that include logging and reporting of learning processes, achievement of standards and all available assessment benchmarks. If indoor rehearsals are not recommended, utilize other avenues of music learning such as music theory, music appreciation, songwriting, music history, and instrument classes such as guitar and ukulele.
22. Prepare to see students less frequently and for abbreviated in person classes. Work with administrators and stay informed of scheduling options.
23. Limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external individuals, groups or organizations.

Locker Rooms and/or Lockers in Hallways

1. Teachers should stagger access to lockers for instrument storage.
2. Students should not be allowed to share lockers.

Physical Activity in the Music Classroom

1. Protocols for Physical movement modification can be utilized to adapt activities such as before-and after-school programs, extracurricular rehearsals, and practices.
2. Students should not engage in activities for the purpose of stretching or “warm-ups” that would require elevated heart rates or exasperated breathing - extreme social distancing should be observed.
3. Students should be provided a mask to wear when singing.
4. Outdoor rehearsals that follow social distancing guidelines are recommended.

Instrumental Music Guidelines

1. Incorporate outdoor classroom environments as much as possible to allow for proper social distancing as well as musical instruction.
 - 1.1. Must have an indoor plan in place to maintain distance among students in case of weather.
 - 1.2. If typical indoor rehearsal space is not large enough, speak with administration about finding a larger area (auditorium, gymnasium, cafeteria, etc.)
2. Outdoor (marching) bands may need use of up to two fields for spacing in an outdoor environment.
 - 2.1. Must have an indoor plan in place to maintain distance among students in case of weather.
3. Use the NFHS, NAMM, NAFME instrument cleaning guidelines: <https://nafme.org/covid-19-instrument-cleaning-guidelines/>
 - 3.1. Caution is stressed when considering the cleaning of string instruments. Please contact local dealers for cleaning suggestions. Most products for sanitizing are

harmful to wood. Refer to ASTA website for cleaning suggestions.

4. Suggest to students to bring their own disinfectant spray for all mouthpieces and reed players use plastic instead of cane.
5. Record class rehearsals and share recordings with students who cannot attend school due to illness or compromised immune systems.
6. Careful consideration must be given to teaching flute, relying on the most up-to-date information available. See Aerosol study for recommendations.....
7. Bell coverings for instruments should be utilized for indoor rehearsals.
 - 7.1 Flute guards for flutes as needed

General Music and Elementary Music Ensembles

1. Restructure General Music and Elementary Music ensembles to allow for social distancing (Goal: 6 feet).
2. Minimize the numbers of students in the ensembles, separate students into different rehearsal groups, and/or change the rehearsal venue to allow for social distancing.
 - 2.1. half day schedule
 - 2.2. A day/B day schedule
 - 2.3. maintain distance within the classroom
 - 2.4. mark spots on the floor with stickers or dot spots
3. Control entrances and exits.
4. Stagger student arrival and dismissal from rehearsals.
5. Rehearse outside whenever feasible (weather permitting).
6. Provide students with assigned seats or assigned areas - marking their spots with tape or other markings on the ground when possible.

7. Manage social distancing before, during, and after the rehearsal.
8. If students are using instruments during the rehearsal/class period, they must stay on the same instrument for the entirety of the rehearsal/class period.
 - 8.1. After each rehearsal/class period, all instruments must be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to further use.
9. If students need to use music, they must bring their own music and may not share with others. Music can also be projected on a screen for all students to view or students can view music on their own device. (Teachers will need to purchase the correct amount of music in order to not violate copyright laws).
10. Students will disinfect their hands in and out of the rehearsal space.
11. Teachers have access to technology to broadcast instruction due to practicing effective social distancing. (large screens to project on, microphones/megaphones, speakers to play accompaniment for students at a reasonable volume, etc.)
12. Teachers should refrain from teaching songs where students are required to touch and/or violate social distancing guidelines. (i.e.: play parties, group dances, etc.) If the movements can be adjusted in order to not violate social distancing guidelines, these songs may continue to be part of instruction.
13. All students face the same direction as much as possible.
14. Provide masks and gloves.

Beginning Instrumental Demonstration and Fittings (NFHS/NAfME)

As school buildings closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many instrumental music programs were unable to carry out their instrument demonstrations and sign-ups for students interested in starting a new instrument. Here are suggested ways in which in-person demonstration and fitting can occur, if these fall within the

suggested health and safety guidelines of your state and local health departments (if not virtual options can be explored):

1. Parental communication about any potential restrictions regarding entry and participation during instrument demonstrations will be necessary.
2. Host an online pre-screening for students to confirm interest prior to in-person instrument trials.
3. Post signage prominently indicating no one should attend or participate if they currently have symptoms or have been in contact with anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days.
4. Be prepared to work appropriately with students who have pre-existing health conditions and work with school nurses or other health officials to take additional precautions as needed.
5. Suggest or require use of face coverings based on local guidelines.
6. When possible, conduct instrument demonstration and fitting outdoors.
7. If outdoors is not possible, schedule instrument fittings using 30-60 min sessions with up to 12 students per 60-minute session (one every 5 minutes) per classroom.
 - 7.1. If possible open windows and use fans to circulate the air.
 - 7.2. If a larger space such as a gymnasium is used - multiple stations may be set up as long as each station is separated from the other stations by a distance ranging from 20-30 feet.
 - 7.3. A 20 min buffer between sessions is recommended to allow the air to refresh before beginning the next session.
 - 7.4. Older buildings may require a longer buffer between sessions to allow the air

to refresh.

8. If parents and guardians are allowed into the school building and/or the outdoor demonstration area, designate a taped off area 10 feet away from any fitting station for parents to sit and observe the instrument demonstration and fitting. Once the session is concluded the student should walk to the parents' seating area and both the parents and child should vacate the area together.
9. No more than 2 seats should be available per student for parents, guardians, and siblings, and these seats must also be properly distanced. In some cases, the students' family may have to wait outside the school building. This expectation should be communicated in advance.
10. Clean and sanitize instruments/mouthpieces properly between each student.
11. Consider the use of wind instrument trial kits rather than actual instruments when conducting instrument demonstrations and fitting for potential band members. After each instrument fitting, the student should then place the mouthpiece in a tub of hot soapy water. A volunteer should take the mouthpiece out of the water, dry it and then spray it with a 70% isopropyl alcohol disinfectant and allow it to air dry.
12. Ensure social distancing is maintained between students as much as possible. This means that students must be separated by at least 6 feet in any small group setting. Teachers should wear a mask if they need to approach the student within that 6-foot setting to facilitate the demonstration.
13. Provide hand sanitizer on site. Students and teachers should use hand sanitizer before and after each instrument fitting and/or demonstration. Encourage

students to provide their own hand sanitizer to help get into the practice of bringing sanitizer to class.