

Greetings from the Chatfield Music Department!

Many students and parents have questions surrounding live music-making for the upcoming school year. After much thoughtful reading, research, and discussion with music colleagues locally and across the nation during this past spring and summer, we wanted to let you know how we plan to conduct music rehearsals with all of our health and safety in mind.

All music educators across the nation were waiting on the preliminary results of a massive undertaking research study at the University of Colorado in Boulder which were made public on July 10th.

These results have shown that band and choir, with easy-to-do precautions in place (distancing, masks when not playing, masked while singing, masking bells of instruments) can still happen as aerosol generation/ saturation is similar to any other subject area during normal lecture-style talking.

LINK TO STUDY:

https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/?fbclid=IwAR131mai2Sn0FrnRDb-J2dhkwF8IHhIrtWmf0-8dL_RjoZ95YU8y65JS7z6a

LINK TO TEHYA STOCKMAN, a graduate engineering researcher explaining the results of the above study. (Podcast name = The Flying Baton Podcast): <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=570042633666941>

KEEPING ARTS ED SAFE AT SCHOOL

MASK Everything!

ACTORS, SINGERS, DANCERS, INSTRUMENTALISTS, INSTRUMENTS, TEACHERS

DISTANCE 6 FEET with Mask

TIMING

OUTDOOR

- Playing Instruments, Singing, Acting, or Dancing (Masks strongly recommended)
- 30 minute blocks with 6ft spacing
- 5 minute pause between blocks

INDOORS

- Playing Instruments, Singing, Acting, or Dancing (Masks required)
- 30 minutes with 6 ft spacing
- Minimum one air change between class

MATERIALS MATTER

2 LAYERS or more of DENSE FABRIC for instruments

WELL-FITTING MASKS for students

Proper HYGIENE

Instruments, Spaces, People

AIRFLOW / FILTRATION

Good ventilation and air change rate for the space.

NFHS NATIONAL FEDERATION OF HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

Source: International Coalition of Performing Arts Aerosol Study 8/6/2020 <https://bit.ly/33r1Enk> • <https://www.artsednj.org/covid19>

ARTS ED NJ

We will be following the recommended guidelines/considerations of the CDC, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the Minnesota Department of Education. These include:

- All band and choir students and teachers will be masked at all times. Band masks will need to have a slit in it (exception: flutes and percussion, who will wear a normal mask while playing) that will be kept with their instrument in the case when not in use, so they will need a normal mask for their other classes, and a second mask for band.
- Instrumentalists will be provided with a special bell cover and additional layer of Merv-13 filtration material as recommended by the U of Colorado study and related associations. The school has purchased these and students will be expected to keep them clean and safe and with their instrument at all times.
- We will distance appropriately both during indoor and outdoor rehearsals.
- As weather allows, we will alternately be indoors and outdoors.
- We will only be playing or singing for 30 minutes at a time through our 43 minute classes, the rest spent in discussion or seat-work time. (This also allows for relaxed sanitation time.) This is the recommended guideline for airflow in a room in one setting.
- We will continue to use proper hygiene procedures for individuals and instruments.
- We have been assured that Chatfield's HVAC system is updated to needed parameters for our situation.
- Choir students will not be using their folder cabinet as that would make distancing difficult and slow down the flow of class. As such, please bring any folder with you from home to hold music. You will take this back and forth with you to your locker and home for distance learning days.
- Band students will be asked to take everything home with them after their 2nd in-person day each week as you will still be playing on the days that you are at home. Please also have a dedicated notebook for band this year. (8 ½ x 11 size...college or wide ruled is your choice!)

Since we missed playing and singing together last spring, we will spend as much time doing just that in-person. We want to be in ensemble singing and playing as much as possible, so plan on enjoying old and new music! We don't yet know about concert experiences this year, but we are so grateful to be able make music together daily in some form.

SCHEDULES

Most of you have seen the district's schedule, which is a hybrid AACBB:

| | <u>In-Person</u> | <u>Distance</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Students with A-J last names: | Monday and Tuesday | Wednesday, Thursday, Friday |
| Students with K-Z last names: | Thursday and Friday | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday |

HS A Cappella Choir will meet every day, either in-person or at home, during 8th hour.

HS Wind Ensemble students will meet every day, either in-person or at home, during 9th hour.

MS Concert Band and Concert Choir students will meet every other day, and alternating Wednesdays (distance). A middle school student will only meet in person one day a week and be

with us in class distance learning either one or two additional rehearsals, depending on the Wednesday.

HS Flex time offerings will be halted until we are back to a normal schedule as small groups become even smaller when our population is cut in half. This results in a less-than-effective music-making experience. We hope to resume Valley Jazz and Union Street Singers as soon as a return to normal allows.

MS Flex time will be offered, but on a limited basis. Skill checks will be minimal, so flex time won't be needed as often.

While nothing is a guarantee, it is our hope that our local citizenry continues to make good decisions regarding their social habits in the coming months so our virus numbers stay low and school can get back to a track of normalcy sooner rather than later. We appreciate each family doing its part through all of this, taking precautions when necessary and helping students with cleaning procedures at home. Distance learning can be trying, but can be successful when approached with a positive mindset. As we had success in the spring, we can continue that success in the fall!

We ask that you check on your official schedules to make sure your band/choir status is as you wish. If it does not show that you are registered for band or choir and you want to be with us, simply talk to Sara Duxbury (HS Counselor) who will be able to help you add the class to your schedule.

Please let us know if you have additional questions about the upcoming year, realizing that we are still in our "summer vacation" and replies may take a day or two longer than usual.

We hope this information alleviates concerns for your families. We have people in our immediate families with underlying conditions as well, so we have a vested interest in keeping all students and staff healthy. If what we have outlined doesn't fit your risk tolerance, we will work with you to provide a quality music education for your son/daughter until everything can return to normal. Please be in touch with us regarding your circumstances.

Enjoy these final beautiful days of summer!

-Mrs. Schleusner and Mr. Simpson