

Michigan Music Education Task Force

Music Teaching and Learning
Recommendations, Fall 2020



Introduction

In order to adopt the provisions outlined in the Governor's *MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020-2021 Return to School Roadmap*, Michigan's music education associations created a statewide committee. The Michigan Music Education Task Force goals are to:

- o Provide teachers with strategies for returning to school (all models – in person, hybrid or distance-learning).
- o Provide administrators, school boards, and stakeholders with facts and creative solutions for opening schools to ensure music education thrives.
- o Prevent irreparable long-term damage to music education in Michigan due to the current health situation.



Michigan Music Education Task Force

Michigan Music Education Association
Michigan School Band and Orchestra
Association

Michigan School Vocal Music Association
Michigan Chapter of American String
Teachers Association

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These unprecedented times have produced unparalleled challenges for educators. The needs of every student in Michigan must be in the forefront as we venture into unknown territory this upcoming school year.

The Michigan Music Education Task Force Believes:



► Point 1

Music education fosters the emotional well-being of all students.



► Point 2

Music education can safely occur in all learning situations.



► Point 3

Michigan music educators can deliver quality, equitable, student-centered instruction without focusing solely on performance.

Point 1: Music Education Fosters the Emotional Well-Being of All Students

- Music is a vital part of human life. Music education allows students to experience the world in many ways, no matter what is happening in the world around them.
- Music is intrapersonal. It allows each student to connect to other learners, other creators, other ideas, and other cultures when social distancing keeps them apart.
- Music bridges gaps. As students learn music together, whether in the same room or apart, equality is promoted. All music learners have a voice. All music learners have choice. Unique identities come together in a music environment and create meaningful connections with each other.
- Music provides an important outlet for people of all ages. This is crucial for young people as they navigate a world that is testing their ability to cope with isolation.

Music Education and Social-Emotional Learning article, presentation, and book:
<https://nafme.org/music-education-social-emotional-learning/>



Point 2: Music Education Can Safely Occur in All Learning Situations.

- Preliminary results of Performing Arts Aerosol Study (Colorado):
<https://www.nfhs.org/media/4029958/preliminary-testing-report-7-13-20.pdf>
- American String Teachers Association planning guides for string teachers as they prepare to resume string instruction in classrooms and studios in the fall:
https://www.astastrings.org/Web/Resources/Task_Force_Returning_to_School_During_COVID-19.aspx
- Report and guidance from 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/>
https://nafme.org/wp-content/files/2020/06/NAfME_NFHS-Guidance-for-Fall-2020.pdf

All reports provide ways to safely deliver meaningful music instruction within the *MI Safe Schools: Return to School Roadmap* guidelines.

Point 3: Music Educators Can Deliver Quality, Equitable, Student-Centered Instruction without Focusing Solely on Performance

- *The Michigan Standards, Benchmarks, and Content Expectations* and the *National Core Arts Standards* outline meaningful experiences students can have outside of a large performance-ensemble setting.
- Performances in public settings are not an immediate need for music learners, considering the current CDC guidelines.

Digital Content for Remote Learning (from the Michigan Music Education Task Force):

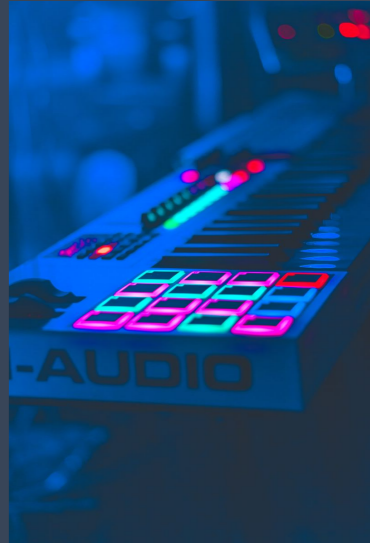
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1I9IJacVrvD1JXzUq6WYCGsNO15h_2UKC9W-4DEsrZFM/edit

Virtual Learning Resources for Music Educators from the National Association for Music Educations:

<https://nafme.org/my-classroom/virtual-learning-resources-for-music-educators/>

MSBOA Music Education Workshop Committee Resources:

<https://msboamusiced.weebly.com/online-instruction.html>



Advocacy:

How You Can Help

Make it known that music teaching and learning can adapt to any circumstance but music education for all students must remain.

Be part of the conversation.

Reinforce the correlation between music instruction and the whole child.



Help Advocate at the State and National Levels

- Contact your state and federal representatives

<http://www.msvma.org/Advocacy-Resources>

- Reach out to members of the “Return to School” Council

<https://www.wsjm.com/2020/06/03/whitmer-names-covid-19-return-to-school-advisory-council/>



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This report is a collaboration of the Michigan Music Education Association, the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, the Michigan School Vocal Music Association, and the Michigan Chapter of American String Teachers Association. It does not serve as medical advice nor supersede guidelines from the CDC, state, or local authorities.

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.” — Plato