



NCMEA BELIEVES THAT MUSIC SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE A PART OF THE EDUCATION OF EVERY NORTH CAROLINA STUDENT.

Many questions and valid concerns regarding the safety of students and teachers continue to surface as they relate to the viability of music education in the immediate future due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While teaching and learning may not be quite the same in our post-COVID-19 world, our state's commitment to providing a rich and varied educational experience to the students in North Carolina should remain the same.

As enumerated in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), music education is a part of a well-rounded education. During these tumultuous times, the benefits of music in a child's education are more important than ever.

Music education supports the social and emotional well-being of students, whether through distance learning or in person. Social and emotional learning (SEL) is a critical component of human learning. During this time of social and cultural upheaval, it is essential that students continue to explore, process, and express their emotions and lived experiences through music in a safe and supportive environment. Social interaction and emotional health are enhanced by the ability to express oneself creatively through music.

Music education contributes to the development of students' creativity and capacities preparing them to enter and contribute to North Carolina's creative economy. With its strong emphasis on team-building and self-reflection, music education is supremely suited to re-ignite students' interest in learning through collaboration, while simultaneously fostering creativity, critical thinking, and communication. These skills are recognized as the "4 c's" - the most desirable skills needed in the 21st-century worker.

Music education has a recognizable impact on student engagement and attendance. Research from multiple organizations demonstrates that student participation in the arts improves attendance, behavior, and academic performance. Unlike most single grade or subject teachers who see students for one semester or year, music teachers have the unique privilege and responsibility of building and nurturing relationships with the same students over multiple years of their development. These relationships and the lessons learned through music will be critical in helping students adjust to their new reality and in keeping them engaged in learning.

While virtual music education looks different from face-to-face music instruction, it is vital to maintain music programs during this pandemic. Music education standards, concepts, and skills can be taught successfully in an online, hybrid, or other modified format.

EXAMPLES OF HOW MUSIC INSTRUCTION MIGHT LOOK FOR STUDENTS ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA

Virtual Instruction

Students will be able to progress in their music education with meaningful instruction in the NC Essential Standards for Music. Instruction could include:

- Being taught music standards through online platforms such as Google, Canvas, Zoom, Teams, SmartMusic, Sightreadingfactory.com, Musictheory.com, Quaver Music, etc.
- Using their instruments/voices at home to practice and develop individual music skills.
- Using the observational and written skills of aural/visual, compare/contrast, and the evaluation of music performances.
- Describing and writing about music.
- Interacting individually or collectively using video conferencing apps to share musical ideas, thoughts, practices, feelings, etc.
- Creating their own music.
- Collaborating with other students through the use of video and audio recordings.

Hybrid Instruction

A combination of in-person and virtual instruction with additional modifications that could include:

- The creation of smaller ensembles within larger existing ensembles to create social distancing.
- Rotation of face to face instruction and creative use of facilities in combination with online components.
- Teaching fundamentals as outlined in the North Carolina Essential Standards in the socially distanced classroom. The actual playing of instruments and singing can be accommodated with the recommendation from local Health Departments.
- Reinforce fundamentals at home with instrument practice/singing with remote learning guidelines and structures.

NCMEA Members: The challenging situation for our return to the classroom is two-fold: (1) the safety/health of students and staff and (2) the financial impact on schools. NCMEA and NAFME will continue to communicate resources and guidance for teachers. Watch your emails, social media, and websites for regular updates.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO NOW:

- Stay in touch with your students! Keep engaging them in music however you can.
- Create a plan for recruitment and retention.
- Keep parents informed about what is happening and what they can do to help.
- Stay in touch with administrators - be a part of discussions for reopening.
- Contact your music vendors to see what resources are available.
- Check out numerous professional development webinars and resources offered by NCMEA and NAFME.