



MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DEPARTMENT OF EQUITY, CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

22 VALLEY ROAD ~ MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY 07042

WWW.MONTCLAIR.K12.NJ.US

MARCOS VARGAS

Director of Humanities K-12

Guidelines for Music Education during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Due to the continued seriousness of the COVID-19 virus and using the [guidance](#) of the National Association for Music Education, the following protocols are intended to ensure the safest environment possible for learning. In the time of COVID-19, music programs are more vital than ever given their ability to support the social and emotional well-being of students and their ability to foster community. The health, safety, and security of our students, faculty, and staff is the predominant consideration.

*Updated with new International Coalition for the Performing Arts aerosol study [guidelines](#) (7/9/21).

Outdoors remains the best option when possible.

Classroom Preparation and Hygiene:

- Instruments should not be shared.
 - However, if non-wind instruments are shared, a cleaning should occur between each use.
- Percussion students must not share mallets without properly disinfecting them.
- Wind instrumental students may have masks with slits at the mouth to fit mouthpieces for playing their instruments only. At all other times when not playing, the students should wear a well-fitted mask that covers nose and mouth.
- Choral students should have their own well-fitted masks, which allow for proper vowel formation while keeping the mouth and nose covered. Masks must be worn at all times.
- Recorders may be used with proper mitigation such as the use of a small sock or surgical mask securely wrapped over the miniscule bell.
- General music teachers should consider providing each student with a personal music kit that includes common classroom instruments (rhythm sticks, mallets, etc.).

Telephone: 973-509-4035; **Fax:** 973-509-5072;

Email: mvargas@montclair.k12.nj.us

Music Classroom/Ensemble Classroom:

- Measure classrooms to determine the best setup for each class to adhere to social distancing requirements. Straight rows in all music classrooms will allow for more space between students than the traditional arch shape.
 - 3X3 feet for all music students; 6X6 feet for trombone players.
- Consider use of larger facilities as available, and measure and pre-set these spaces as well.
- Capacity should be limited only by the ability to maintain proper social distancing.

Equipment and supplies may need to be expanded:

- Sharing of music stands should be limited only by the ability to maintain proper social distancing.
- Students may receive disposable one-time use sheet music. Alternatively, students may sing off their devices or print the music themselves.

School Performances:

- School performances may be streamed online without live audiences, or until audiences are welcomed back.
- Student performers should adhere to instrument and vocal hygiene and social distancing protocols, as directed by local and state health departments.

Hydration:

- Water bottles must not be shared. Students shall bring their own water bottle.
- Hydration stations (water fountains, etc.) should not be utilized.

Choral

Student singers may be spaced at least 3 feet apart, adjusting farther depending on conditions. Each station, whether desks or music stands, will establish a 3 ft x 3 ft "rehearsal area." Students must remain in this area at all times.

- Teacher will be placed central to the group and at least 3 feet apart. (Alternatively, in front of the room.)
- Students must wear a mask at all times, including during rehearsal.
- Upon reaching their space, students must spray their desk or music stand with sanitizing spray provided in each classroom or auditorium.
- At the end of each rehearsal period students must spray the desk or music stand and hard surfaces within the designated "rehearsal area." Students must retain possession of masks at all times. They must never be left on the desk or music stand.
- Capacity should be limited only by the ability to maintain proper social distancing.

Wind

- Slitted face masks may be worn while playing. This is optional. A mask all other times is not.
 - If students are not using slitted face masks when performing, they must pull their full mask up as soon as they finish playing or during breaks in the music.
- If students are not playing on a particular selection, they must distance themselves 3 feet around the perimeter of the room.

- There should be no coming and going out of the room during the performing rehearsal times. There will be designated times for staggered bathroom breaks.
- Each player will be provided with bell covers, instrument covers and/or slitted masks for added prevention while rehearsing, as well as having access to sanitation supplies available in the rehearsal spaces. Alternatively, slits may be cut into surgical masks that are then to be covered over using a full cloth mask as soon as performance is over.
- Condensation protocols for brass or wind instruments:
 - Emptying condensation on any floor is prohibited.
 - Brass or wind players who may have condensation accumulated in their instruments during playing must empty into absorbent pads or extra thick paper towels placed next to each player's chair. Alternatively, consider using puppy pads or a community bucket.
 - Players will remove their own absorbent pads, extra thick paper towels or puppy pads and dispose in trash containers.
- There will be NO shared wind instruments (including all saxophones, trumpets, trombones, flutes, and clarinets). The only instruments shared will be pianos, bass and guitar amps, and drum sets. Students will be expected to wipe down these instruments after rehearsals.
- All chairs, stands and flooring will be sanitized prior to rehearsal and between rehearsal groupings to ensure proper safety.
- Time in room should be limited only by the ability to maintain proper ventilation.
 - Windows should be opened during this time where HVAC circulation is not available.