

APPENDIX E: MUSIC EDUCATION DIRECTIVES

September 1, 2020

The following guidelines apply to music education and the use of music as a pedagogical tool in the classroom. Guidance for extra-curricular music activities (choir, band, orchestra, musical theatre, dance) will be provided at a later date.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development recognizes the positive effect of music on the social and emotional well-being of students, as well as the pedagogical impact on language and cognitive development.

Wind instruments and singing will be permitted provided the duration of these activities is limited to 30 minutes or less and that health and safety measures are applied (physical distancing, increased cleaning and disinfection).

Music classes

- It is recommended that music classes take place in outdoor areas whenever possible, weather permitting. When weather prevents outdoor participation, music rooms, theaters, gymnasiums, auditoriums and alternative spaces may be used provided all health and safety measures are applied (physical distancing, enhanced cleaning and disinfection).
- Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will participate in the music class within their class grouping and maintain a physical distance of two (2) metres from other groups. Proper hand sanitization is required before entering and leaving the music class room unless it takes place in the regular classroom.
- Kindergarten to Grade 8 students can sing with their class group indoors when the weather prevents outdoor participation. Singing softly at a physical distance of two (2) metres is encouraged, even within a class group. Students should be arranged so that they are not directly facing each other.
- As with any other materials shared within a group class, musical materials, with the exception of wind instruments, can be used by all students in the class but should be cleaned and disinfected at the end of the day. For materials shared between class groups, the musical equipment must be cleaned and disinfected by the students under the supervision of the music educator before another class group can use it. If it cannot be cleaned and disinfected, the material in question should not be made available for common use. See the Wind Instruments section for instructions on cleaning and sharing these.
- The use of markings is recommended (e.g. floor tape, hula hoops, cones, etc.) and general signage is required to indicate where students can sit, stand and participate according to physical distancing guidelines.
- The sharing of musical instruments is allowed except for wind instruments (see section Wind instruments), with cleaning and disinfection between each user. Proper hand sanitization is required before entering and leaving the music class room, the auditorium or any other space.
- It is recommended that students in Grades 9 to 12 sing outdoors, weather permitting, or in large spaces to ensure physical distancing of two (2) metres from students and staff. Singing softly is also encouraged. Students should be arranged so that they are not directly across from each other. Forming smaller groups may be necessary to ensure singing at a safe distance.

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- Music educators who teach several groups of students of all grade levels in the same school must ensure that they maintain a physical distance of one (1) metre in the classroom. When the music educator teaches in more than one school, the distance of two (2) metres is required (see Appendix A – Use of Community Mask).
- It is important that all music educators implement a variety of educational approaches to ensure quality music instruction in a safe environment, for example:
 - Incorporate cross curricular and prioritized curriculum documents;
 - Offer educational outcomes with flexibility to be taught at school or remotely;
 - Include more educational scenarios focused on music appreciation, music theory and musical creation; and
 - Incorporate instruments that are lower risk (e.g. percussion or string instruments) into musical activities.
- Sheet music, song lyrics and other printed materials should be provided to each student for them to keep or projected for the entire classroom to see. Handling of shared material should be kept to a minimum.

Music as a pedagogical tool

- Kindergarten to Grade 8 students are permitted to sing with their class grouping indoors when the weather prevents outdoor participation.
- Singing softly at a physical distance of two (2) metres is encouraged, even within a class group.

Wind instruments

- The use of wind instruments will generally be permitted if all health and safety protection measures are observed (physical distancing, increased cleaning and disinfection).
- Considering the amount of time required to clean wind instruments, an instrument should be loaned to one student at a time for a period of several weeks (time block). This instrument should then be cleaned under the supervision of the music educator before being loaned to another student.
- Additional details will be provided to the schools and music educators concerned as to the respective cleaning method to follow for each wind instrument.
- Students should be arranged so that they are not directly facing each other.
- Students should maintain a physical distance of at least two (2) metres (including instrument) and ideally four (4) metres when possible when using a wind instrument or participating in other musical activities. The duration of instrument activities should be limited to 30 minutes.
- If distancing and cleaning measures cannot be followed, wind instruments will not be permitted for use.