



NYSSMA[®]

A State Unit of NAFME, National Association for Music Education

August 25, 2021

Dear Music Educator,

As we prepare to begin the 2021-2022 school year, NYSSMA recognizes the need for guidance concerning safe and effective music instruction. Given the lack of directives provided by the New York State Health Department and the less-than-complete guidance document published by the New York State Education Department, your professional organization is here to guide and advocate with you, your school, and district leadership, to create the most effective teaching and learning environment in your music classroom.

We encourage you, and your district, to apply the same social distancing and masking guidelines to your music instruction that are being used for the other standards-based subject classrooms in your school. This recommendation is based upon the timely research study findings and recommendations published by the National Federation of High Schools (<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/return-to-music-resources-helping-teachers-administrators-students/>) and provided by our National Association for Music Education (<https://nafme.org/my-classroom/nafme-and-nfhs-return-to-music-guidance-phase-iii-august-2021/>).

Please note that the vast majority of music instruction that takes place in schools is curricular, standards-based, and part of a well-rounded education, as per the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and New York State education regulations. Contrary to the NYSED Health and Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year (<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/back-school/nysed-health-and-safety->

[guide-for-the-2021-2022-school-year.pdf](#)), most band, choir, classroom, and other musical learning is not defined as extracurricular activities.

Feel free to utilize the resources cited above, along with the wealth of timely curriculum and instruction resources available on the NYSSMA website (www.nyssma.org) as you plan your school year. You will also find resources to help you advocate for your program, and can always reach out to one of us for guidance.

NYSSMA is here to help you navigate the ever-changing challenges of our world. We have an amazing army of volunteers who share with you an abiding passion for music-making and music-learning. Together we can, and will, pursue and achieve our mission to advance music education across New York State.

As president of NYSSMA, I wish you a rewarding, fulfilling, and highly musical 2021-2022 school year and remember, I am here whenever you need me.

Sincerely,

David M. Brown, Ed. D.

Dr. David M. Brown
President, New York State School Music Association

Dr. David M. Brown, President · 2886 County Line Road, Skaneateles, NY 13152
Phone: (H) 315.480.3536 (S) 315.852.3400 · e-mail: president@nyssma.org

NYSSMA® is a registered trademark of the New York State School Music Association