

Organization of American Kodály Educators, Inc
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Dear Administrator,

Educators across the globe are looking for creative solutions to the crisis facing our students today. The Organization of American Kodály Educators (OAKE) is in the midst preparing resources for music teachers everywhere, as we rise to the challenge of providing rich and engaging instruction while encouraging students to continue making joyful music in the absence of the traditional, inherently social music classroom.

In preparation for many different scenarios of instruction, music organizations are working together to create guidelines for music-making in many different settings. We have joined with nearly 100 organizations to sponsor research that will help us to better understand the implications of COVID-19. Researchers at the University of Colorado are currently studying how aerosols may spread during different types of music classroom activities and what mitigation strategies lower the risk. We expect to have the results of this research in early or mid-July.

As we await the findings of this study, OAKE currently recommends the following guidelines for maintaining a quality music program while still promoting health and well-being. Please note that, as newer research informs further action, you should also consider additional measures.

- Hand-washing before each class enters the music room
- Sterilization of musical instruments
- Distancing through non-contact singing/musical games
- Using recording technology, as available, to allow for safe assessment
- The utilization of larger, alternative learning spaces that allow for more room to properly implement social-distancing measures
 - Think outdoor classrooms, cafeterias, gyms, and all-purpose rooms

The current status of the COVID-19 pandemic is taking a heavy *emotional* toll on our students, as well. Consider this when making policy decisions. Music classrooms provide a safe-haven for students' social-emotional development and are a necessity in this time of crisis.

Music education is the right of every child. Through music education, we promote the intellectual, social, and emotional development of our students. By implementing the above recommendations, the musical growth of all students can continue safely.

Thank you for keeping music as an integral part of the child's whole development.

Sincerely,

The Organization of American Kodály Educators

Donna Menhart, President: president@oake.org | Lauren Hirsh, Executive Director: director@oake.org

"Music is nourishment, and a comforting elixir. Music multiplies the beauty of life and all its values." -Zoltán Kodály