

WPS Guidelines for Secondary Performing Arts

Submitted by Amy Brown, Maranda Wilson, & Shawn Chastain

Performing Arts classes are vital to the social emotional well-being of students and part of Kansas core curriculum. Recent studies are showing that singing with a mask and playing wind instruments do not pose more risk than talking. This document provides guidelines for safe instruction of performing arts classes.

**We are requesting a full day with the secondary performing arts teachers to go over the approved guidelines and instructional practices.*

Resources:

- NAFME/NFHS Guidance for Music Education
- KSHSAA Guidelines for Summer Marching Band Rehearsals
- Educational Theatre Association Recommendations for Reopening Theatre Programs
- Northwestern - St. Paul Risk Management Plan
- NAFME and NFHS - Performing Arts Aerosol Study (July 13, 2020)
- Rapid Evidence Report regarding Singing as a Risk for Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 Virus
- Teachers and administrators from KCK, Shawnee Mission, Olathe, Goddard, Maize, and Andover

Protocols for Performing Arts Rehearsals:

1. Masks will be worn at all times in all performing arts classes and rehearsals, wind players should use a surgical mask with a slit while playing. Recent studies affirm that consistent mask use minimizes risk of aerosol spread.
2. Provide CDC guidance to teach students how to properly wear and remove face coverings and teach why they are important for protecting students and staff.
3. Use of bell covers to “mask” wind instruments.
4. Keep students spread out 6 to 10 feet, in large spaces (auditoriums should be reserved for large performing arts classes).
5. Teachers should maintain at least 10 feet distance from students when playing a wind instrument or singing.
6. No shared wind instruments, equipment, folders, or sheet music.
7. Parents and students should self-screen for symptoms with no penalties for missing rehearsals or performances due to illness.
8. If spacing guidelines cannot be achieved, teachers can rehearse in alternating small groups.
9. Promote frequent hand washing/sanitizing, avoid touching face and mouth.
10. At teacher discretion large classes may need to be split up in different hours to evenly distribute enrollment throughout the day instead of having some large and some small groups.
11. Encourage the use of water bottles.
12. Singing and playing wind instruments indoors should be kept to 30 to 45 minutes.

Physical Environment:

1. Auditoriums should be reserved for performing arts classes
2. Music classrooms should be reserved for music classes only vs. non-music meetings/classes

3. High School marching bands rehearse outside throughout the fall, weather permitting
4. Outdoor spaces can be used for whole group singing activities while observing social distancing guidelines, weather permitting
5. Use straight rows instead of typical curved set-up, everyone facing forward, use tape on the floor to map out safe distance for seating
6. Open doors or windows to provide extra ventilation to dissipate aerosols
7. Teachers will create traffic flow and/or staggered entrances and exits to minimize contact
8. Provide floor markers, visual guides, and signs to help facilitate safe traffic flow
9. No use of practice rooms/or limit to one student at a time with sanitizing in between

Cleaning and Sanitation:

1. Train staff on proper sanitizing procedures
2. Sanitize any shared equipment, string instruments, or percussion instruments between class periods
3. All students will sanitize their hands as they enter rehearsal area, and before leaving rehearsal area
4. Each brass student have their own disposable absorbent pad to empty water keys, no blowing out condensation
5. Disinfectant spray is to be used on mouthpieces at the end of every rehearsal
6. Students will be provided their own mouthpiece disinfectant spray
7. Students provide their own music stand if possible
8. Students will only handle their own instrument or mallets/sticks

Needs for our teachers to be successful:

1. *In-Service and Periodic PD Time to instruct and update teachers on appropriate protocols, procedures, and instructional practices
2. Time in the school day for teachers to conduct proper cleaning procedures between classes
3. Sanitizer for equipment
4. Sterisol Solution for mouthpiece cleaning
5. Individual Spray Bottles for wind instrument players
6. Disposable masks for wind players
7. Hand Sanitizer for staff and student to use before, during, and after class
8. Bell Covers for wind instruments
9. Water access if no sink in the classroom
10. Floor Markers to direct traffic flow
11. Adequate plan time for remote and live instruction

Conclusion:

- Instruction will continue to effectively address all state performing arts standards and learning targets while observing the protocols outlined above.
- Preliminary studies show that the consistent use of masks, spacing and considerations such as those above confirm the effectiveness of these practices in performing arts classrooms.

[Preliminary Aerosol study released July 13, 2020 - University of Colorado sponsored by NAFME/ACDA/KBA et al]

- Arts Education is essential for the social and emotional well-being of our students as well as promoting a well-rounded education for future employees. Music and the Arts have been affirmed as essential core subjects in federal legislation through the ESSA [Every Student Succeeds Act (2015)].
- By maintaining access to safe and meaningful arts education, performing arts educators will continue to support the artistic, academic, social and emotional development of students, schools, and community. [NAfME/NFHS Guidance for Fall 2020, June 19, 2020]