

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association



Preparing For The Future

Dear Fellow PMEA Member,

As we continue to provide teaching and learning opportunities in our remote/online music classrooms through the remainder of the current school year, it is critical that we make every effort to continue to connect with our students, administrators and our communities. While wrapping up this challenging school year, it is important that we prepare for our return next school year. With ever tightening budgets and an uncertain future due to this unprecedented health crisis, the support for our students and our programs is paramount. We know the value that music education has for our students, and its place in our school curriculum, and we should not underestimate the impact music has on our students' social and emotional well-being. It is our responsibility to make every effort to continue to provide meaningful music experiences and advocacy of our programs.

Here is a checklist of things you can do right now in your school and community before the end of the school year:

- ◆ **Connect with your students** – check in via zoom, email, phone calls, etc..
- ◆ **Participate or create end of year, “rite of passage” programs for your students** – graduations, virtual award ceremonies, parties, trivia nights, dance party, etc..
- ◆ **Keep parents informed** – share how you are connecting, your plans for the future, etc..
- ◆ **Reach out to your administrators** – volunteer to participate in planning committees, share relevant resources, research, etc..
 - Scott Lang has shared some [Templates](#) for emails to students, parents and administrators
- ◆ **Connect and collaborate with colleagues** – share ideas, lesson plans, happy hour, etc...
- ◆ **Plan alternative retention and recruitment strategies** - host virtual instrument petting zoo, pizza party, google forms, surveys to collect information, etc..
- ◆ **Communicate with your music vendors** – ask what strategies they may offer to support recruiting efforts, additional resources, etc..

- ◆ **Research SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) teaching strategies** and how they can be more intentional in your instruction, etc..
- ◆ **Stay current on remote/online music teaching resources**
- ◆ **Attend and participate in Professional Development, Webinars, etc...**

Research is currently being conducted on what the return of school may look like. This information will be shared as it becomes available in the form of a **Music Teacher Tool Box** to help give clear guidance for maintaining your programs and ensuring the safety and well-being of your students. All of our efforts both individually and collectively can have a powerful positive impact on our students, parents, colleagues, administrators, and communities. As we prepare for the future, our collective efforts will ensure that our students throughout the Commonwealth will continue to have a rich and a fulfilling music education.

Stay safe, maintain your health and spirit. Remain positive and focused!