

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association



Preparing For The Future

Dear Superintendent of Schools,

First and foremost, thank you for your leadership during these difficult times. The sudden pivot to online and distant learning has been abrupt and has challenged our school communities in so many ways. As discussions related to reopening our schools begin, we will likely be faced with a whole new set of conditions, obstacles and challenges. While our students will return to school, it will likely be under different circumstances.

Music education programs in schools will undoubtedly be affected as well. Developing what our music ensembles and music classrooms may look like next school year following recommended guidelines regarding social distancing, schedule modifications, and new curriculum is now being discussed and researched by PMEA as well as our many partner organizations and associations in education and public health.

There will be a time when our educational institutions will be returning to more normalcy; where our students will be the recipients of a quality and comprehensive education in our school buildings. It is critical at this time to continue to provide music programs to all of our students; whether it is remote and/or modified in some way. Quality music experiences delivered by qualified music educators has and will continue to be an essential part of our students' well-rounded education. Additionally, music plays a key role in the social and emotional well-being of students. The unique experiences that students have in a music classroom helps them navigate the many emotions and feelings they may be encountering at this time.

PMEA and its members are prepared to join with school districts in planning, developing and modifying music programs to accommodate student learning during socially distant times. As new information, research and best practices emerge, we will be sharing that with our members who can assist in providing the best music education for Pennsylvania students.

Thank you again,

Tina Bennett, PMEA President