

PMEA Instrumental Focus Group Discussion

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- **MINDSET**
 - Think about things as building from ground zero rather than we've always done before!
 - How do we connect with audiences/parents and community
 - It's about concepts, not concerts
 - Still focus on technique, but not worry about how far along they are for a performance
 - Music teachers much maintain self-care and mental/emotional health

- **Ensemble Modifications**
 - Physical Distancing
 - Availability of other spaces for rehearsals - gyms, auditoriums, etc.
 - What can be repurposed? (Stage)
 - Outdoor spaces (check school guidelines)
 - Small group lessons if weather is cooperative
 - Sectionals in larger spaces - ability to walk around
 - Auditorium could become socially-distanced holding area
 - ABA Guidelines - bullet points for classroom use and sanitization
 - PMEA not necessarily reinvent guidelines
 - Can masks be lowered during rehearsals? - YES (from PDE) if they are socially distanced
 - Strings may not have to be as socially distanced as much if they wear masks? Focus more space for winds?
 - Still need to focus on social distancing!
 - We're in this together!!
 - Spit buckets - one for each brass student
 - Taping off a 6x6 area on floor
 - Keep cases in rehearsal room to avoid crowding storage rooms
 - Consider entrance into the rehearsal space to minimize crowds
 - Flipped classroom model - all other activities except playing instruments happen in the lesson and then actually play at home - send Flipgrid videos for assessment/feedback
 - Smaller ensembles/Chamber Music

- **Staffing/Scheduling**
 - Modify teacher schedules to allow for use of other spaces
 - Use of student leaders to assist with overseeing spaces
 - Possibly running sectionals?
 - Possibly need hall monitors/additional staffing/volunteers to oversee spaces

- **Performance considerations (Concerts)**
 - Stream Concerts - YouTube Live
 - Copyright Issues! Ensure proper licensing!!
 - Teach students how to use the technology

- And parents as much as possible
 - Prepare students to play along with a click-track with headphones while in person
 - SmartMusic
- Modified Start to School - Hybrid
 - Teaching live and also streaming video
- Recruiting Beginners
 - Digital documents with demonstrations and forms
 - Google Website with all of the introduction information and videos from teachers as well as student testimonials and demonstrations
 - Parent Zoom Meetings in Spring and Summer
 - Be Part of the Music Website (Scott Lang)
 - Looking for guidance for recruiting and retention (PADESTA, ASTA, PMEA)
 - How to have students try instruments
 - Students bring a dime/penny, pen, etc. from home
 - Students clap or read rhythms, etc.
 - Buzzing
 - Many videos that are already produced for students to watch online
 - Teacher can produce videos for first lessons
 - Suzuki or for beginners - be sure to have parents oversee (asynchronous)
 - May need to provide school-owned instruments for more students if possible
- Concerns
 - One-on-One video lessons - Liability?
 - Copyright for live streaming
 - Burnout!!
 - Not providing prep time for other teachers
 - Student access to technology/online learning
 - Computers
 - Internet
 - Music as enrichment - low student participation
 - Social distancing in stands for Marching Bands
 - Review documents from PDE/PIAA regarding sports
 - No spectators at events - only teams, coaches, essential staff
 - Marching Bands - allowed to be there or perform
 - Budget concerns - staffing, technology, equipment, etc.
 - Family budgets for instrument rental
- Recommendations NOW
 - Gather concerns/questions from all music teachers and share with admin
 - Talk about repurposing spaces for rehearsals/classes
 - Communicate with parents now (Zoom meetings)\
 - Discuss with Admin about importance of classes for those subjects that must be done in person (art, music, phys ed)
 - Keep in touch with alumni!
 - Need to help public understand how things are different now

- Live experience vs. online learning
 - PMEA Webinar idea - *Complying with Copyright & How to Obtain Licensing for Live Streaming performances*
 - Finding funding may be an issue
 - Easier if you do not charge for concerts
 - Archive or One-Time Watch - different licenses
 - PMEA Webinar idea - *Options for Virtual Concerts: We're Not All Eric Whitacre*
 - can be a slideshow with audio.
 - Resources for chamber music/repertoire - flex band arrangements, etc.
- Platforms if we're still closed in the Fall
 - Google Classroom
 - Canvas - user friendly, adaptable,
 - Seesaw for primary grades
 - Blackboard - maybe not the best
- Links
 - <https://www.tmea.org/news/covid-19-updates>
 - https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/48629596-bb45-48f9-9faa-ad1fa9b404cc/downloads/BLUEP_RINT.pdf?ver=1591302971177
 - <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-05-vienna-philharmonic-virus-orchestras.html>
 - <http://travisjweller.com/2020/05/01/why-our-band-programs-need-chamber-music-now-more-than-ever/>
 - <https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/sports-guidance/>
 - www.mustech.net - many resources for technology and platforms

Who's missing from this conversation?

- Guitar teachers
- Urban teachers