



NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are doing well and looking forward to the school year. This letter provides information about the New Providence School District Performing Arts programs as they relate to the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools.

The recommendation for performing arts instruction from the NJDOH states: *Due to potential increased risk of droplet transmission, physical distancing should be prioritized for wind instruments and singing. If it's safe and weather permits, consider moving class outdoors where air circulation is better than indoors and maintain at least 6 feet distance between students. When students are not playing an instrument that requires the use of their mouths, they should wear a face covering in music class (unless class is outdoors, and distance can be maintained).*

New Providence performing arts courses will meet these requirements by:

1. Social distancing of 6 feet in all music and theater classes.
2. Wearing well-fitting masks in all indoor general music, choir, orchestra and drama classes, even during singing and acting activities.
3. Wearing well-fitting masks, when students are not playing wind instruments, during all indoor band classes.
4. Conducting classes outdoors when practical.

New Providence performing arts courses will exceed these requirements by:

1. Limiting all indoor rehearsals to 30 minutes or less of singing, acting or playing wind instruments.
2. Decreasing/reducing the traditional amount of indoor singing in favor of other music literacy activities.
3. Wearing well-fitting masks for singing and acting activities when outdoors.
4. Encouraging the use of specialized wind instrument playing masks and bell covers when appropriate.

More specific information will be provided by teachers at each building, including regarding schedules and rehearsals.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Hess
Department Head of Music Education and Performing Arts
Director of Vocal Music - Allen W. Roberts School
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