THE OREGON MUSIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION BELIEVES Viable MUSIC EDUCATION CAN AND SHOULD CONTINUE IN ALL OREGON SCHOOLS.

Understandably, many are concerned regarding the safety of the music classroom and the challenges of maintaining meaningful instruction in the era of COVID-19. The belief of the Oregon Music Education Association (OMEA) is that viable music instruction can and should continue while adhering to the guidelines set by local and national advisors.

The *Every Student Succeeds Act* of 2015 acknowledges that students are entitled to a well-rounded education and all disciplines, including performing arts, can safely be included as part of a student’s instruction. Music provides the opportunity for students to be creative, share their emotions and be part of something bigger than themselves. The act of music making engages students socially, emotionally, cognitively and physically. Music making requires critical thinking and collaborative learning. It teaches every student that they have a direct and personal effect on the group’s overall success and struggles. In addition, music and arts education support the social and emotional well-being of students and foster a welcoming school environment that encourages students to express themselves in safe and positive ways. In these times, it is more important than ever that all Oregon students have access to music and arts education as part of their well-rounded education.

OMEA recognizes that each district, region, or county may have different approaches when schools reopen. Regardless of the format adopted in each district, music *must* be considered an indispensable part of a complete curriculum as outlined in state and national standards. OMEA supports music educators as highly qualified, professional educators who are certified in an area that has proven benefits to students.

Music educators are known for their relationship building and flexibility in and out of the classroom. Given the chance, they will continue to innovate while developing artistic literacy. They will discover unique ways to guide their students and ensure that excellent music instruction can be provided in a variety of formats.

Music educators and their music classes are key components in the successful reopening of Oregon’s schools. The Oregon Music Education Association has supported music educators since 1938. We hope that you will reinforce our mission and continue to promote the study and enjoyment of music in your schools throughout this uncertain time.

For more information:
- Music Education and Social Emotional Learning
- Arts Education Is Essential: Statement from 50+ arts and education organizations
- *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*: enumerates music and the arts as part of a well-rounded education and specifically articulates that music should be a part of every child’s education, no matter their personal circumstance
- Oregon Department of Education: Arts Standards
- Oregon Music Education Association
- OMEA Advocacy
- National Association for Music Education (NAfME)
- National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM)
- National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)