



August 27, 2020

Dear Students and Families,

On behalf of the NH Music Department, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our students and program. These last several months have been challenging for everyone to say the least. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that as music teachers we are very concerned about our students and are doing everything we can to keep music in their day. I am asking that all families stay strong with us and wait for this storm to pass. We want nothing more than to make music and be with our students. It is important now more than ever to stay encouraged and keep your music going while we work our way back together again. We are very motivated to reach all of our students and set goals that allow our students to feel purposeful throughout their year.

We have worked very hard to find creative ways to keep our music program in the schedule of our students. Many of the constraints we face are due to the pandemic and proper social distancing guidelines. The NYS Department of Health recommended that singing and band instruments be kept at a 12ft distance for each child, Strings 6ft. These requirements put constraints on the number of students we can accommodate in our ensembles due to a large number of students in each group. During Hybrid JR/HS choir students will have the ability to sing with masks 12ft apart because the groupings are smaller and the rooms are larger than the elementary schools. Students K-6 will not be traveling to the music room for General Music. Our K-6 General Music Teachers will be traveling to each classroom and singing will not be permitted at this time due to the constraints of the 12ft guidelines.

Ensembles and Instruments: All **HS and JH** Choir, Band, and Orchestra students have been divided into smaller groups and have been given a block in your schedule for your "ensemble" time however there will not be the opportunity to have the large ensemble together at the same time during the school day. In addition, this scheduled block will also accommodate the inclusion of their lesson requirement. When students are in their scheduled block for music there will be time for both small group work and individual lesson time. Please see your director if you are missing a second or third ensemble, in most cases, we should be able to internally make arrangements to share music students and readjust with the guidance office.

ELEMENTARY Choir, Band, and Orchestra will not be able to have before school rehearsals at this time due to bussing and schedule restraints. String students: students who were planning to start strings in 2nd or 3rd grade will be recruited next year. 4th-grade students who were planning to start band this year will be recruited next year in 5th grade. Currently enrolled

students will receive lessons via in-person or online depending on remote learning or hybrid situations. Our elementary instrumental teachers will reach out after school begins to find a time remotely to hold lessons. During Hybrid instruction students will be pulled from one of two general music classes for their in-person lesson as well as being scheduled some on remote days. We completely understand some of our elementary students may not be available during our all remote time when school starts. When our teachers reach out to you in regard to lessons, please know we will be as flexible as we can to work out any conflicts.

I know there are questions you still might have and I encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher. As always, please feel free to reach out to me as well. I will do my very best to find answers. I am very proud of our students, department, and the music legacy we have at New Hartford.

My warmest regards,

Jo Anne Goodemote
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