



26 May 2020

Dear parents, colleagues and community leaders,

Thank you for your diligent and careful work in finishing out this past school year, for providing our students with the opportunity to continue learning, albeit amidst difficult circumstances. With the safety of students and staff as a primary consideration, you have had to make – and will continue to make - tough decisions affecting every aspect of education. Making education as safe as possible for students, while preventing the spread of Covid-19, is a challenge for us all, and requires re-evaluating nearly every aspect of education.

Recent studies conducted by the Vienna Philharmonic and the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra have addressed the issue of safety in playing wind instruments, for both conductor and player. In both studies, results showed that playing a wind instrument does not, in fact, present additional risk to those around the performer. As a musician blows air into the instrument, the instrument creates resistance to produce a musical tone. This resistance slows the air stream, and captures the aerosols in the instrument, rather than spreading them around in the air as formerly hypothesized. Thus, music educators and schools can continue to offer students a quality music education, including performing ensembles, while still playing a proactive role in preventing the spread of Covid-19.

Standard instrument cleaning and disinfecting techniques can and should be used in the schools, as specified in the NAMM/NAfME instrument cleaning guidelines (which can be found at <https://nafme.org/covid-19-instrument-cleaning-guidelines/>). These are the same guidelines we follow at Musical Innovations, to help ensure the safety of our customers and our staff.

As students return to school, music will continue to play an essential role in education. Research abounds showing the benefits of music with respect to other subjects, test scores, psycho-social development and more. In addition, music is an important part of wellness and relief of stress and anxiety. These benefits will be ones that will help each child, each family, each teacher to navigate the months and years to come; we cannot emphasize enough the importance of including music in our education plans for this fall and beyond.

Thank you all for your continued support of music education, and for your leadership during this time. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance in any way as you move forward.

Sincerely,

Tracy E. Leenman
Owner/CEO



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