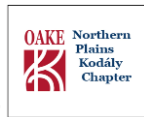




North Dakota Music Educators Association



Superintendent Kirsten Baesler
North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
600 E Boulevard Ave #201
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Superintendent Baesler,

This Spring has proven to be a challenging undertaking for all educators, parents, and students in our state. We appreciate the Department of Public Instruction's tireless efforts to adapt to online learning. We would also like to commend you for the support you have provided to all school districts across the state during these circumstances.

The North Dakota Music Educators Association, in partnership with ND American Choral Association, ND National Band Association, ND String Teachers Association, ND Prairie Winds Orff, and Northern Plains Kodaly Chapter represent the majority of music educators in the state of North Dakota. In anticipation of schools reopening we have held ongoing discussions for how music classes may potentially be held in the future. With the safety of students as our main concern, we have begun to identify safe parameters that will help to customize individualized needs within each music classroom. We believe that North Dakota has unique circumstances which cannot be compared with other states across our nation, and we want to be prepared for when our students return.

Music teachers excel at using formative assessment to modify our instruction. Utilizing those skills, we want to focus upon the opportunities we are able to offer our students rather than limitations. We realize that safety comes first, but it is important to remember that emotional and mental health issues are going to be a major issue. Our music programs will serve a vital role in helping students cope with social-emotional issues related to the ongoing pandemic. While delivery of music education may change for the time being, the learning expectation should not.

We believe that music must continue to be a part of educational offerings for students at all age levels, and we assure you it can be done in a meaningful and "North Dakota Smart" way. With reopening guidelines in mind, our affiliated music organizations have been actively engaged in discussions both at a state and national level. We believe that we are a valuable asset in assisting the North Dakota DPI in the decision-making process for including music education in the reopening of all North Dakota schools. We

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North Dakota Music Educators Association

are confident that our schools will continue to offer the excellent well-rounded education that our students deserve.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. Please let us know how we can be of assistance in the near future.

Sincerely,

Sara Baumann, President NDMEA

Mark Herold, President-Elect NDMEA

Brian Saylor, Past-President NDMEA

Lindsey Tafelmeyer, Executive Director NDMEA

Cheryl McIntyre, President NDACDA

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