

**Best Practices for Continuity of Instruction – Guidance # 8**  
**Arts Education**

Staff in this category may use online platforms and email with students and parents to provide Art and Music instruction conducive to online exchanges and responses that support students' artistic and academic progress. Educators may use any of the available online platforms to provide assignments in alignment with the [New York State P-12 Learning Standards for the Arts](#) subject content standards and requisite skills in the respective classes. It is strongly recommended that Arts teachers interact with students, parents, and colleagues within the contractual workday.

**In addition to Guidance #1 and #4, art and music educators' responsibilities may include:**

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**Instructional Delivery and Interaction**

- In addition to the resources that your school community has established for planning and delivering instruction, teachers are encouraged to refer students to the district [Art and Music Webpage](#) which has a comprehensive set of activities and resources for students, parents and teachers
- Teachers are encouraged to join the Outlook365 Team for Art and Music to stay connected to their colleagues and to share best practices

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**Points to Consider**

- Use a variety of instructional methods and platforms to deliver the indicated material/content. Please refer to the [Art and Music Webpage](#) for suggestions on the following:
    - how to administer instrumental lessons from a distance
    - how to engage in ensemble rehearsals via Zoom
    - how to conduct online art, theatre and music classes
    - how to engage students in the creative process with little to no materials available at home
    - how to use free concert series to enhance students' arts experiences
    - how to differentiate art experiences and adapt activities for different age groups and learners
  - Remember to do the following:
    - Maintain a log of what you are creating and the communication you have with students, parents and your colleagues
    - Stay connected to your professional community, your school and administrator and inform your administrator of any issues or concerns you are having in relation to providing continuity of instruction
    - Stay connected to your national organizations such as [The National Association for Music Education](#) and [The National Art Education Association](#) that provide a variety of resources to you that are up-to-date and responsive to the current context
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### Points to Consider - continued

- Clearly communicate expectations to your students and to their parents/guardians
- If you are unclear about a particular process or policy, reach out to your administrator or to the director of the department to help
- Other points to consider during this time:
  - Try to make students feel included in the process of rethinking their current experiences; reach out to students and connect with them – use them as a resource
  - Explore how the Arts can be enhanced by digital platforms; if you discover creative ways to present information please share them
  - The Arts can help the community right now; focus on critical compassion in all communications
  - Consider different ways to collaborate – deploy co-curricular as well as departmental synergy in planning and instruction

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### International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement Guidance

- In addition to working with your coordinators in your respective schools, up-to-date information and guidance on IB and AP can be found on both the [International Baccalaureate](#) and the [College Board](#) websites

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### Collaboration

- Teachers are encouraged to check emails regularly for updates and to stay in contact with District and school personnel
  - Share best practices and content with one another...if someone has something that works really well add it to the webpage
  - Teachers are encouraged to create teams to prepare and upload content to teacher webpages or to create and submit content for the district webpage
  - Collaborate with other departments (Math, Science, Social Studies, ELA) and figure out how to incorporate some arts-based learning into their activities
  - The District understands that many of our students may not have access to arts materials or instruments at home. In light of this situation, the department is working with local partners to coordinate possible solutions. Please reach out to Director Dr. Tanya Long if you would like to help coordinate this effort.
  - If you have any further suggestions for your Arts Department, please contact Dr. Tanya Long, Director [tlong@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:tlong@yonkerspublicschools.org) or 914-376-8068.
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