

We are thrilled to begin music making with our new jazz ensembles, and we are excited to share our plans for the 2020-2021 season with you. We also understand that we are in difficult times due to the current pandemic. In order to preserve the health and safety of our Fox Valley Youth Jazz musicians, directors, and families, and to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our communities, the FVYJ will be operating the 2020-2021 season with the below policies in order to comply and align with safety requirements from the State of Illinois, ISBE, CDC, and our especially our hosts, Aurora Christian Schools. We realize that the current situation is fluid, and we are prepared to monitor and make adjustments as necessary.

As of September 1, our plans to begin IN-PERSON instruction will include the following:

1. SCHEDULES:

- The fall semester will begin Thursday, October 1. Click [HERE](#) for a full schedule.
- Group start and end times are staggered so that different groups do not need to enter the building at the same time:
 - Big Band: 6:00
 - Jazz Orchestra: 7:30
 - Jazz Combos: 6:30
- Students and directors will not cross between different groups at this time. (excepting if an entire ensemble is a subset of a larger group such as a Jazz combo)
- Fall concerts will be held virtually. More details to come.

2. PROCEDURES:

- Students must be dropped off alone for rehearsals; adults and siblings may not attend to listen to rehearsals at this time.
- At the front door, students will check in with a volunteer who will check temperatures with a touchless thermometer and ask about any present symptoms before entering.
- Students will have access to hand sanitizing stations at the entrance of both the building and the rehearsal space.
- Instrument cases will be placed under the chair of each student.
- During rehearsals, students will be spaced out six feet apart and will not share any materials, such as music or stands.
- At the end of rehearsals disinfectant spray will be applied to all chairs.
- Students will follow traffic instructions to get to rehearsal spaces and exit the building.
- Social distancing will be monitored at all times.
- Doors to rooms will be left open to facilitate increased air flow.

3. POLICIES:

- ALL students, directors, and volunteers must wear face coverings or masks and wear them anytime they are in the building and during rehearsals. Proper wearing of masks includes covering both the mouth and the nose.
- Wind Instruments will be required to use approved nylon bell covers (trumpets, trombones, saxophones) - these can be acquired from music stores like PM Music - see www.pmmusiccenter.com
- Students must supply their own music stand, pencil, and folder with printed, FVYJ-provided music. Wire music stands will suffice, but students may consider investing in a slightly sturdier music stand, such as Manhasset brand, available on Amazon.com. A stand can also be purchased from us if you do not have one.

- Absence reporting:

- Students who show symptoms of illness of any kind should NOT attend rehearsal and will not be penalized for doing so.
- We will have an absence reporting form posted on the FVYJ website that you can complete which our directors will see.
- If you test positive for COVID-19 or start to show symptoms within two days after coming to rehearsal, you must notify us immediately by emailing info@fvyouthjazz.org. We will confidentially evaluate any such reports according to the CDC guidelines for contact tracing, and will contact families of students believed to have been in “close contact” with any student identified as a “probable or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient” within the timeline indicated by the CDC, while preserving the student’s anonymity to the highest degree possible. We will then evaluate for that ensemble whether it is appropriate to switch to a virtual rehearsal for the next 1 or 2 sessions. Such sessions will be held via Zoom.

IF IT BECOMES UNSAFE TO HOLD IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION, the FVYJ will continue instruction during normal rehearsal times virtually via Zoom. See <https://zoom.us> to get connected online with your own zoom account.