



In this unique time, music educators all over the world are faced with the need to modify their practices not only in teaching, but in classroom orientation, cleaning, spacing, and management. At GCS we desire to offer the very best instruction so all students can learn and grow in their knowledge, understanding, and love of music and glorify the Lord to further his kingdom through this art form.

Over 125 performing arts organizations are supporting a scientific study to learn how COVID-19 may spread in the course of music activities. The study is examining possible mitigation techniques to prevent or lessen aerosol distribution during singing and playing of wind instruments. The results of this research will inform our understanding and, subsequently, the development of effective mitigation strategies for music education. You can follow the research [here](#).

Based on the research of this study, the CDC, and local health department guidelines, we have established the following guidelines for singing at GCS:

- **Well-fitting masks should be worn by all students and staff in the music classroom.**
- **Singers should wear masks at all times.**
- **A 6x6-foot distance between students should be used in all music classrooms.**
- **Rehearsals should be limited to 30 minutes of sound production (playing or singing) both indoors and outdoors.**
- **At least 3 Air Change rates per Hour (ACH) should be set as the minimum; more is better. Our HEPA filters are set to allow 6 air changes per hour.**
- **Good hygiene norms will be followed and school-approved disinfection strategies will be used.**

We are excited to have a way forward that allows us to sing, as we are commanded to do so! Thank you for supporting our endeavors to create a safe environment for our staff and students as we make music together.

With gratitude,

Karen Palumbo, Fine Arts Director

Cherie Morel, Elementary and Middle School Principal

Jim Kerr, High School Principal