

Kentucky Art Education Association COVID Recommendation for a safe art environment Administration

To Be Safe and to Still Give Students the Art Experience they Deserve

At a time when things are uncertain due to the pandemic, the emotional well-being of our students is important and the need for the arts and creative development as a means to express oneself is more vital than ever.

Throughout the summer KyAEA has been working with teachers to continue arts instruction in a safe environment. This document hopes to provide recommendations to help continue art education in a safe manner.

- **Learning Environment**

Art teachers should be responsible for their subject, not asked to be substitutes for other content areas.

Each student should have their own basic supplies (scissors, glue, drawing utensils, tape) and they should be kept in individual sealed containers.

- **Scheduling**

Adequate time should be allowed for teachers to have time to sanitize supplies/equipment, gather materials and travel. The KyAEA recommends that art teachers are given 10-20 minutes between classes.

- **Safe Spaces**

Art Room: The art room should be a safe space for teachers to gather and store supplies and projects. The space should not be used for other purposes, allowing the art room to retain its integrity. Teachers should be allowed to go back and forth to their room to get supplies and store art projects without worry of the space being compromised.

Carts: We recommend that to assist in organizing and a clean environment there be multiple carts provided.

For example:

- one cart per grade level
- one cart per medium
- one cart per class that day

Classrooms: The next class period of students should not be lined up when a class is in the art room. The next class period of students should wait to be called when the class is clean and prepared for the next group to arrive.

Specific Art Teacher Recommendations

Face-to-Face

For classes that will be taught face-to-face, follow and adhere to all current CDC and state guidelines for facilities and social distancing requirements. Which states that students should always be 6 feet apart and wearing a mask at all times.

Consider `mobile teaching` options

Having “Art-on-a-Cart” is not a favorite, but it could support the necessary safety of our students in an elementary setting by having teachers go from “Room to Room” instead of students. Consider having “multiple carts” such as “a cart for each class you teach”, that way each class’s materials are contained on “one” cart. This will make cleaning, sterilizing and keeping student materials secure with minimum touching. Extra time between classes will need to be provided for the Art-on-a-Cart teachers to sanitize and, if possible, switch carts (refer to suggestion for multiple carts organized by art process).

NTI (Non-Traditional Instruction)

Those students who stay at home and are still in your class need to “feel like they are still in your class”. Do not assign busy work. These students need to receive the same instruction as those who work at school. Students on NTI also need to receive an Art Kit just like non-Art students at school. Students on NTI need to be contacted by their Art teacher on a regular, weekly basis, as well. Utilizing digital applications such as Google Classroom, Empower, etc. will allow you and your at home NTI students to stay organized.

Mindset/Being Ready for Art Teachers

- Have “sub plans” made (in packet form if necessary) for yourself if you have to be quarantined for 14 days and for students who have to be quarantined for 14 days.
- When planning lessons, try to do hands-on tasks that can be done in one class period.

Cleaning/Classroom and Supply Management Ideas for Art Teachers

- Have two different, alternating sets of supplies. For example, set A of brushes is used 1st period, handles are sanitized then placed in a container of soapy water. Set B is used during 2nd period. Set A is cleaned by you 2nd period. Set A is used again in 3rd period while set B is clean during this period. And so it goes...
- Use clear containers with lids (like the little round ones used for dressings in to-go orders) to put liquid supplies, such as paint or glue, in.
- Use zip-lock bags to create art kits for individual students if plastic containers cannot be provided.
- Use individual handheld pencil sharpeners to assist in keeping students at their table/desk during class. There should be little to no moving around the room during class.

Recommendations for Art Kits for Face-To-Face and Virtual Student Instruction

Grades Prek-2 art kit recommendations: #2 pencil, eraser, colored pencils, crayons, glue (stick and/or liquid), scissors, handheld pencil sharpener, white drawing paper, assorted color construction paper

Grades 3-5 art kit recommendations: #2 pencil, eraser, colored pencils, crayons, glue (stick and liquid), scissors, handheld pencil sharpener, oil pastels, watercolor set, paintbrushes, markers, sketchbook, white drawing paper, assorted color construction paper

Grades 6-8 art kit recommendations: basic drawing pencil set (range of grading levels - #2B, HB, #2H), eraser, colored pencils, glue (stick and liquid), scissors, handheld pencil sharpener, tortillon/blending stump, crayons, oil pastels, watercolor set, round watercolor brushes sizes 3, basic acrylic paint set (primary colors plus black and white), acrylic paintbrushes, markers, sketchbook, black Sharpies (2 fine and 1 extra fine), modeling clay, assorted color construction paper, 1:1 computer

Grades 9-12 art kit recommendations: basic drawing pencil set (range of grading levels - #4B, #2B, HB, #2H), eraser, kneaded eraser, charcoal, colored pencils, glue (stick and liquid), scissors, handheld pencil sharpener, tortillon/blending stump, crayons, oil pastels, watercolor set, round watercolor brushes (sizes 3, 6, 12), basic acrylic paint set, acrylic paintbrushes, markers, sketchbook, black Sharpies (2 fine and 1 extra fine), modeling clay, assorted color construction paper, 1:1 computer

- Coordinate supplies with other teachers and parents. For example, there may be a list for supplies in the general classroom for each student (Prek-2) which can be used during art lessons taking place in the classroom and supplies provided by the teacher during in-person learning whether in the art classroom or in the general classroom setting.
- Sketchbook options: All students should have a sketchbook for ongoing classwork that can travel with students for use at home and in the classroom. If regular sketchbooks are unavailable, alternatives can be used in the same manner.
- Students in PreK-2 can use composition notebooks or copy paper.
- Students in grades 3-5 can use prong folders as sketchbooks. They can add any type of papers to it, mostly copy paper for sketching.
- Students in grades 6-12 should have a 9"x12" sketchbook,

Portfolio options:

- Instead of portfolios, students can bring in brown paper shopping bags as a cost-effective portfolio. You do not need to open them; you just slip the work inside. This type of setup can be easily used by parents at home as well.
- Use a basic manila folder.
- Make a portfolio using corrugated cardboard or other sturdy paper or board.

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Resources:

- [NAEA Tips for Teaching:Returning to the Classroom](#)
- [NAEA Tips for Teaching:Distance Learning](#)
- [ReOpening Resources from KDE](#)
- [CDC Guidelines for Schools](#)

``Creativity involves breaking out of established patterns in order to look at things in a different way``.

- Edward de Bono