

NEWARK ACADEMY

— FOUNDED IN 1774 —

September, 2020

Visual Arts

In the studios, students sit at workstations that are at least six feet apart. Whenever possible, students have been provided with their own art supplies. Materials and tools that must be shared will be sanitized in between uses. For remote students, art supplies are being prepared for mailing or pick-up. Student work will be featured throughout the year in the Teiger Gallery for the Visual Arts for the community to enjoy.

Choral Music

Weather permitting, our choral classes will meet outside equipped with the necessary technologies to enhance the experience. However, should we need to move indoors, we are fortunate to have a brand new 750-seat auditorium that has a state-of-the-art ventilation system. Working in smaller groups of no more than 25, our singers will be spread out across this large performance hall. Newark Academy is providing students with discipline-specific masks at no charge to families. Special singing masks that are specifically designed to protect singers will be required regardless of the rehearsal location. Studies show that rehearsals are safest when limited to 30 minutes. Culminating performances are still in the planning stages.

Theatre

It is a comfort to know that our large black box theatre has ample square footage to spread out acting students appropriately. In Theatre Arts, all students will receive their own “window pane” face masks to bring to class every day; these masks are washable and should be laundered regularly. Rehearsals for our fall production, *She Kills Monsters*, will take place Monday through Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. The performance will be pre-recorded and broadcast as a livestream event the weekend of November 5.

Instrumental Music

Our largest high school groups will meet remotely a few times a week in the evening. Mr. Tolentino and Dr. Hagen have developed an exciting, productive curriculum that will include guest artists and virtual performances. Middle School groups will meet during the day and focus on a combination of small group rehearsals and music theory lessons designed to enhance the students' musical skills. Both the Upper School Jazz and Advanced Jazz/Chameleon will be meeting in the evenings virtually; these meetings will be supplemented by some live sectionals in the evening with dates and times to be announced at a later date. Any in-school classes and rehearsals for wind instruments will take place outside in groups of no more than five students. Standard masks and bell covers will be employed to ensure safety. Small string ensembles will have class in the band room, masked and appropriately spread out across the space.

Dance

The spacious Wrightson Gym will provide ample room to create 12-foot zones for our dancers to learn and rehearse. Choreography will be designed to maintain distances with partnering and group work suspended until those are deemed safe. Standard masks will be worn at all times. Students will share their progress at the Fall Dance Concert, on December 12, which Ms. Luxenberg is creatively reimagining as we speak.

Co-and Extra Curricular Groups

Groups that meet outside of the school day, present their own set of challenges and we are currently working on finding ways to carve out the best time and space for these important groups to meet. It is crucial that the Art Department is in alignment with other Newark Academy extra-curricular programs in regards to meeting times, locations and health protocols. We expect to be able to share those plans by the third week in September. Until that time, co- and extra-curricular groups will be meeting remotely.

Performances and Festivals

At this time, many of our culminating performances and exhibits are still in the planning stages. Our arts faculty are committed to providing students with opportunities to share their artistic voices with the community in meaningful ways.

Remote Students

Remote art students will join their classmates via Zoom and will be offered meaningful instruction and will receive the same level of individual attention offered to our on-campus students.

The arts are critical in helping young people stay engaged in creative learning and to stay connected with each other during these unusual times. We will remain vigilant in taking all of the necessary precautions to assure that these young artists are safe as they pursue their creative passions. We long for the day when the art wing is once again running full tilt, but we are also prepared to pivot back to remote experiences if need be.

Thank you for your support of our programs, and rest assured that we will keep you updated as protocols and practices evolve.