

Dear ISF Parents,

The 2020-2021 school year poses some unique challenges for the ISF Music Department. The ISF Music Department wants to ensure that we are making music *safely* with your students during this time. Due to the infectious nature of Covid-19, the Hessen Education system has prohibited group singing and the playing of wind instruments in enclosed spaces. Performances and concerts are not possible at this time. This unfortunately means that we cannot sing in the general music classroom. This does NOT mean that we cannot make music! ISF Music Department will continue to deliver high-quality music education to your children and we have some exciting new things planned.

#### **Grades 1-4**

Students will still have general music class where they continue to develop basic music competencies in reading, performing and understanding music. Although students cannot sing, they can still play percussion and ukuleles while they work on developing music theory, listening, and composition skills.

Because of hygiene concerns, we are asking all students in Grades 3 and 4 to bring their own ukuleles to school. There are many sizes of ukuleles and a soprano ukulele is the best size for your primary students. An affordable but high quality ukulele can be purchased here [https://www.thomann.de/intl/harley\\_benton\\_hbuk12\\_blue.htm](https://www.thomann.de/intl/harley_benton_hbuk12_blue.htm)

#### **Grades 5-8**

The biggest change will be to the music program in middle school. In order to provide the same opportunities to all students in middle school, all ensembles (band, choir, and orchestra) are suspended until it is safe to sing and play together. Middle school students will take a general music class instead of an ensemble. We are thrilled that the music department will be subscribing to the MusicFirst Classroom, which is an online music learning management system that provides software titles designed to help students develop their skills in composition, general music knowledge, and music technology. This subscription will provide exciting opportunities for both in-class and remote instruction.

#### **Grades 9-12**

Students who have chosen to further study music will prepare for the IGCSE music exam and will focus on developing the music theory, listening, performance, and composition skills to successfully take the IGCSE exam. Students in Grades 11 and 12 have the option to study either IB music or AP music theory.

Students still have the possibility to learn instruments as part of a SLO activity or by taking private lessons at extra cost.

While our Drama Department cannot mount a musical theater production, Drama Club will rehearse for a performance in the spring, following all recommended Hessen health and safety guidelines for theatrical performance.

We know that this year will be different and challenging. We also know that making music and expressing ourselves can help us cope with all of the changes and difficulties we face right now. We look forward to making music with your children this year!

Musically yours,

The ISF Music Department

Ms. Atanassova, Mr. Falzarano, Mrs. Forness, and Mrs. O'Sullivan