

Dear GPOC Folks,

This year has been such a trying time for us all. After much trial and error, I have a few helpful hints that may help you as you finish the year in your own teaching environments (whatever that may look like right now). Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or need help brainstorming ideas to be covid safe while teaching music in your classroom.

Take Care,  
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### **Helpful Hints**

- Constantly reminding students to check their masks or wear their masks properly? Any time you feel like you are repeating a specific direction in your classroom or spending a lot of time re-explaining a direction, that's usually a good indication that something needs to be posted in writing, worked into your normal routine with a song, or turned into a non-verbal cue. I've had great luck with pre-teaching a non-verbal gesture that tells students it's time to check their masks and make sure their nose is tucked safely inside.
- Sit spots and velcro on the carpet marking out spots are infinitely valuable in the time of covid-19. Pre-measuring spots that are 3-6ft apart is a huge time saver and it keeps kiddos safer. I have spots for circle formation, a grid formation, and places marked off for when we play instruments like tubanos and xylophones. Don't forget to add extra spots for when remote learners return back to in-person learning!
- Have a power point created and ready to go filled with short educational clips, movement activities, rhythm activities, and important performances that you can show students while you are cleaning instruments off for the next class. We've been having a blast patting and speaking rhythms from the Elementary Groove Tracks channel on YouTube! Check it out! <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfopZ7PJOE6V3M12aHdVe1Q>
- Looking for a resource of affordable, high quality, meaningful music you can teach in your classroom? Look no further than the Justice Choir Songbook! Find it here: <https://www.justicechoir.org/>