

For large ensembles:

*Instruction by Section

Flutes on Mondays, Low Brass on Tuesdays, etc....keeping the groups to whatever number you can accommodate while still social distancing.

*Instruction by smaller concert ensembles (ideally split up with balanced instrumentation—or as close as one can get).

You could still play concert music together, just in a much smaller group. It would definitely make some kids have to be much more accountable. A group of 15 could look like 2 flutes, 2 clarinets, 1 bass clarinet, 1 alto, 1 tenor, 1 horn, 2 trumpet, 2 trombone, 1 baritone, 1 tuba, 1 percussion. Obviously, numbers would look different depending on your instrumentation, but something similar could work.

*Instruction by grade level (depends on enrollment per grade)

Having a freshman band, a sophomore band, etc.

*Instruction by small group lessons only

Individual or small group lessons where you are only dealing with 1-5 students. You could still work ensembles too with small groups.

*Instruction if everyone is required to wear a mask

Recommend all students be in a percussion ensemble. You can work on so many counting and rhythm activities, it would have to help their individual skill level go up in this area. You could easily put 15 kids in a percussion ensemble. You would really only need 1 actual percussionist to play snare – the rest of the instruments could be played by anyone...obviously the mallet instruments would require some keyboard knowledge.

For beginners:

*Fitting/trying students out on instruments

Teacher demonstrates how to form a proper embouchure in video form (thus eliminating spit/moisture droplet issues and teacher can always be “masked”). First students watch video, then with the aid of teacher, forms embouchure and tries with mouthpiece. Possibility of having a plexiglass shield (similar to what is found at grocery/pharmacies etc), so that teacher is shielded from student’s spit. Teacher should have several of each mouthpiece that can disinfect for several minutes before using again.