

Hello Fanfare students and parents!

As you know, the spreading of the coronavirus/COVID-19 is quickly changing much of our daily routine, including school and business closures, and more.

In light of declarations and instructions for social distancing and no gatherings of more than 10 people, we know the importance of helping all families feel comfortable with continuing their children's instruction. In that regard, Fanfare will provide continuity by teaching all lessons **online** over the next several weeks, **beginning March 23, 2020**. We will be teaching these online lessons via Zoom, from Fanfare teachers' at home computers. Teachers are equipped and prepared for online lessons via Zoom and are looking forward to continuing online during these next several weeks! In my experience, online lessons have proven to be highly engaging, effective, and a fantastic option for all students no matter age or level.

For your use, we have included below a student setup checklist which we ask you to go over with your student. If you have any questions about the setup, please let Ms. Pulliam know via phone call (409)762-8477 or email (Director@FanfareLMA.com), so we can be prepared for your first online lesson!

I am thrilled that we have an amazing alternative to in-person lessons during this time so that all students can continue their music, art and dance instruction. We are looking forward to getting each of you set up for online lessons!

Thank you!

June Collins Pulliam, Executive Director
Fanfare! Lutheran Music Academy

STUDENT SET-UP CHECKLIST FOR ONLINE FANFARE LESSONS

Device:

You need a device to stream online lessons. You can use a desktop computer, laptop, or tablet. If neither of these is available, you can use a smartphone. Please be sure that your device is charged or plugged in during your online lesson.

High-Speed Internet:

You will need internet access for lessons. If that is not available at your home, you may be able to use free Xfinity wi-fi hotspots using this map:

<https://hotspots.wifi.xfinity.com/mobile/?nc=1>

Video Calling Software:

Before the day of your first class next week, you will receive a text from your Fanfare teacher(s) with an internet link to your Zoom classroom.

To Log on:

About 4-5 minutes before usual time for your class, click on the link sent by your teacher. When it's time for the class, your teacher will allow you to "enter" the class from the "waiting room". The link should take you directly via your browser, but in case your device requires it, go ahead and download the free Zoom app from your device's App Store.

Note: when student enters the online classroom, s/he will be able to see the teacher. So that the teacher can see the student, click on "Start Video". If you need to use a smartphone, you may see a choice between "Call Via Device Audio" or "Dial-In"; if so, choose "Call Via DeviceAudio".

There is also a Chat feature on the side; if there is a problem with sound, or other, the teacher can type instructions there and you can type questions to help with problem solving/troubleshooting. We ask your patience, particularly at the first lesson, if there are challenges as you/your child learn the system.

Helpful Tip: Your internet connection will work best if during this 45 minute period there are no other devices in your home doing heavy streaming such as Netflix, etc. That way you can reduce the likelihood of lags and drops. In case your feed does drop, however, just log in again.

Instrument:

Of course you need your instrument during online lessons. Make sure that your instrument is ready and in tune for your lesson.

Stool or Tablet Stand:

Please find a stool or desk to place your device. The device should be positioned so teacher can clearly see you and the instrument. If using a tablet use a tablet stand. Before the day of the lesson, experiment with a good place to position your device for class - maybe on a sturdy music stand, or bookshelf, or a table with some sturdy books stacked on it for height. Be creative if necessary but make sure your device is secure, and not on a shaky surface.

Music Materials:

You will need whatever music book or sheet music that we have used in recent lessons. Be sure to have these ready to go before your lesson time begins so we can get started right away.

Again, we are very pleased to be able to offer this avenue for continuity and continued progress in your child's education as we all navigate this unprecedented time! Feel free to contact Ms. Pulliam with questions or concerns at Director@FanfareLMA.com or (409)762-8477. Blessings!