



# Distance Learning in the Arts for Students with Special Needs

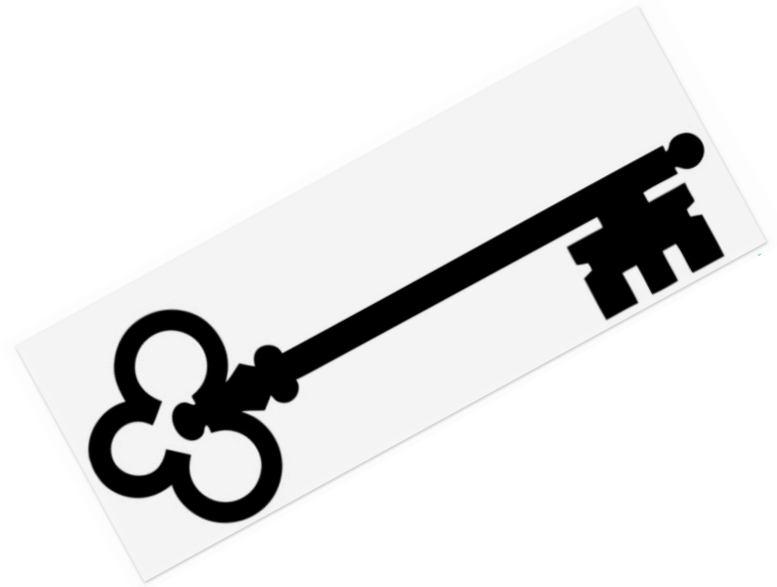
CAAA Meeting October 8, 2020



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What is the key element to supporting students with special needs while distance teaching and learning in the arts?





It's simple! It's just good, planned teaching.



- Address the challenges facing teachers and students in distance learning.
- Provide strategies for helping students with special needs to be successful in distance learning.



# Some of the Challenges for Teaching Art and Music to Students with Special Needs in Distance Learning

- Attention
- Communication
- Expectations for students/parents/teachers
- Consistency
- Lack of structure
- Need for strong executive function skills
- Difficulty following multiple step directions
- Need for adult supervision
- Lack of materials at home
- Changes in medication schedules



"Good morning class" by Chuck Styles, retrieved from:  
<https://www.inquirer.com/health/coronavirus/d-nice-homeschoolin-club-quarantine-chuck-styles-covid-19-coronavirus-social-distancing-20200328.html>



Chang struggles with attention. He needs almost constant redirection, which is most easily done by standing next to him or redirecting his gaze. He also struggles with multiple-step directions.

Distance learning amplifies these challenges.

Carol struggles with developing ideas, time management and perseverance. Reducing her anxiety is most easily done through conferencing with and the use of guiding questions and/or prompts to facilitate her learning and pace.

Distance learning amplifies her struggles.

*Story for illustration purposes only*





## Ways to Assist Student Learning

- Provide visual aids for instructions.
- Provide written instructions so that students can work at their own pace, one step at a time.
- Pre-record the instructions so that students can review at their own pace.
- Plans all lessons as if they will be for distance learning.
- Provide virtual small group time for additional support for students with learning needs.
- Collaborate with other teachers.
- Use iPad apps that provide accessibility to instruments.
- When using videos to supplement, be certain to include CC or subtitles

In good, planned teaching we take into account all learning needs and we make accommodations available to everyone.



# Thank You

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Special Education Online Music  
Resources  
and Apps

