

Dear Merit Families,

We're so excited to welcome your students back to in-person programs beginning September 25 and continuing throughout the following week.

In addition to the COVID mitigation steps for your child's program outlined in an email you should have received earlier this week or last, I want to share separately the requirements for vaccinated parents to enter the Joy Faith Knapp Music Center. Please review carefully as this will require action on the part of some parents.

**Who is eligible to enter the building:**

- All students regardless of vaccination status so long as they're masked and have appropriate PPE
- Vaccinated parents may enter the building specifically for the purpose of attending class or a private lesson with their child. Unvaccinated parents will not be granted access to the building.
- Only one parent/caregiver is allowed to attend a class or lesson
- If needed, younger siblings of students are allowed to accompany their parents so long as they comply with our Covid-19 safety protocols (masked and socially distanced from non-family members)
- Parents who have a specific appointment with a staff member (no drop ins).

**Acceptable Vaccine Verification:**

- 

**Check in procedure:**

- During Peak Arrival Times: (M-F 4:30 – 7:30pm; Sat 8:00am-2:00pm)
- Check in with a staff member in our front lobby on Peoria St.
- Once checked in, parents proceed directly to their child's class.
- Parents not permitted to wait in the lobby, community room, or hallways.
- After 7:30pm, Merit teachers will verify parent's card or pass directly when they arrive for a lesson

**Instructions for using *Bindle***

- Visit the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#) on your mobile device and search for "My Bindle"

- After you download the app, setup an account by providing a selfie, your email address, and DOB. As a final step, you'll be prompted to type in the verification code sent to your email. ○ Note – you may only have one Bindle account per device.
- Upload your COVID-19 Vaccination date & record card by going to My Certificates on Bindle and tap the “+” icon and follow the instructions. ○ Note – Merit accepts self-certified/self-attested items, you do not need to send them from your health care provider. As a reminder, we are only accepting proof of vaccination, NOT negative test results. Still, select self-certify/self-attest if prompted.
- Once you've uploaded your digital health records, go to My Passes on your Bindle and search for “Merit School of Music”. Then, click create Entry Pass, and you'll be presented with an entry pass including your selfie, a QR code, and an expiration date.
- For any other questions, please check out the Bindle FAQ.

If you are a parent who plans to enter the building next week with your student, please come prepared to show your vaccination status. Thank you for helping us to keep Merit a safe and healthy place for our students, faculty, and families.

Best wishes,

**KURTIS GILDOW**

Merit School of Music  
Dean and Vice President for Educational Affairs  
*He/Him/His (what's this?)*

Joy Faith Knapp Music Center  
38 South Peoria Street  
Chicago, IL 60607

**P: 312.267.4469**

[www.meritmusic.org](http://www.meritmusic.org)