

East Quogue Union Free School District  
6 Central Avenue  
East Quogue, NY 11942

Mr. Robert Long, Jr.  
Principal/Superintendent

(631) 653-5210 Office  
(631) 653-8644 Fax

Music Department

September 7, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to the instrumental music program at East Quogue Elementary School. My name is Ms. Russo, and I am the instrumental music teacher at our school. Our school district offers children the opportunity to begin to learn how to play an instrument, as well as, how to play/perform in an ensemble. Music is an intricate part of a child's education as it relates to so many tasks/tools that can help a student to grow academically, expressively, socially, as well as musically. I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with information about this year's instrumental program.

Students enrolled in the instrumental music program will be required to attend one weekly 30-35 minute instructional lesson, and an additional 45 minutes per week, before school, to participate in band rehearsals. Participating in instrumental music lessons is part of a student pull-out program, and classroom teachers are aware that students are not to miss their music lessons because of class-work and/or scheduled tests/quizzes. Students are responsible for working together with their classroom teachers to make-up any class work and/or tests/quizzes that are missed while they are attending their instrumental lessons. All band rehearsals will take place in the cafetorium before school at 8:00 am one day per week, except Jazz Band which is an after school activity on Wednesdays.

My communications to students AND parents are very detailed and cover both tangible hard copies of documents, emails, as well as individual texts and group texts using the "Remind" application. ALL of the mass group communication in the Band program is made through the "Remind" app, which is available on smart devices AND online via computer internet. Through the "Remind" app, I am able to text one message that reaches everyone in the group, in addition, parents can text me privately- one to one-outside of the group at any time.

The "Remind" app, allows our Band Families to send and receive pictures, documents, links, etc. and it enhances the band experience for our students and their families, and it makes our very busy band program and performance schedule MUCH easier to navigate through our school year with your child.

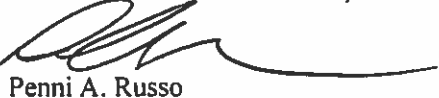
ALL Band Families must register to receive text message alerts via your cell phone/email through the "Remind" app (instructions are attached to the reverse side of the September Calendar enclosed in this instrumental packet).

Attachments enclosed in this Instrumental Music Packet include an informational sheet explaining our policies concerning class requirements and student expectations, band rehearsal schedules, purchasing your music materials, a sample rubric/report card for the instrumental Music Program, the September Music Calendar, registration instructions for our Text messaging alert system (Remind), and the Instrumental/Band Registration form.

If you have any questions regarding our Instrumental Music/Band Program, I will be presenting an **"Instrumental Music Open House" at 6:00pm in the general music room (Room #123)** on the same evening as the school's "Back to School Night" on September 13, 2018 BEFORE the main school portion begins @7pm. This is an important "first step" for those parents and families with new or beginning instrumental music students, although all instrumental families are welcome to attend.

Our superior East Quogue Band Students have been a very proud part of our community for many years. I look forward to teaching your child and opening up a world of opportunity and enjoyment that can last a lifetime. If you have any questions regarding your child's involvement in our instrumental music program, or questions about any of the materials or information listed in this packet, please feel free to contact me via email at: [prusso@eastquogue.k12.ny.us](mailto:prusso@eastquogue.k12.ny.us) OR a text message via "Remind".

Yours in music and education,



Penni A. Russo

cc: r. long

(incl. attachments)

## Below you will find all the practical information needed to understand how our Instrumental Band Program operates.

### MONTHLY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CALENDARS:

At the end of each month, I distribute an Instrumental Music paper calendar to each student, for the new month ahead. Students usually receive these calendars at the last band rehearsal each month, so I can be assured that every student has received the calendar. Students are encouraged to stop by my office to receive any paper communication, should they be absent when the material was distributed.

### “REMIND” TEXT MESSAGE ALERTS\*:

To register to receive text messages, alerts, and communications for your child in our Band Program, please follow the instructions listed below:

1. Download the Remind app. On your cell phone (it's free)  
Or go online: [https://www.remind.com/send\\_the\\_app](https://www.remind.com/send_the_app)
2. To register for text alerts and messaging for EQ Bands and/or Drama Club, Send one of the class codes listed below to: **81010**
3. Choose one of the following class codes to text in the message to the number listed above:

For Beginning Band- Text:	@eq-beg-bnd	to <b>81010</b>
For Advanced Band- Text:	@eq-adv-bnd	to <b>81010</b>
For Marching Band- Text:	@eqmarchbnd	to <b>81010</b>
For Jazz Band- Text:	@eqjazz	to <b>81010</b>
For Graduation Band- Text:	@eqgradband	to <b>81010</b>
For Drama Club- Text:	@eqdrama	to <b>81010</b>

### WEEKLY LESSONS:

Students are required to come prepared for their weekly lessons with the following: Instrument, Pencil (not pen), a separate Homework Notebook, and a Lesson Book prepared with practice on the assigned page(s). The Homework Notebook will contain the lesson assignments that were given out in class; at the end of each weekly HW entry, a parent signature is needed to verify that your child has practiced for the week and is prepared for his/her next lesson. **Students are also responsible for having the needed materials for maintaining and performing properly on their instrument (reeds, cork grease, neck straps, valve oil, etc.) throughout the year.**

Students are encouraged to communicate with me as much as necessary, regarding advanced notice for any lesson schedule alterations which may suddenly occur due to special class presentations, trips, etc. to allow for possible lesson rescheduling for that particular week, so that students are staying up to date with their practice and performance homework.

### PRACTICE:

At-home practice is a large part of the success of learning to read music and perform on an instrument. Learning, understanding and applying new skills- especially at a beginning level- takes repetition and continuity. It is best to try to practice at least 20 minutes each day for no less than 5 days each week.

### GRADES\*\*:

Students will be graded based on the following criteria:

1. **Attendance** (students must remember to attend their weekly scheduled lesson; illness is excusable)
2. **Preparation** (students must remember to bring their instrument, lesson book, parent-signed homework notebook, pencil, and any other additional material given to the student)
3. **Effort/Following Directions** (students' grades are not determined by their abilities alone, but by the amount of effort each individual student is putting forth, and the follow-through with directions/instructions given out in class)
4. **Behavior/Attitude** (students are expected to be courteous, cooperative, and positive in all aspects of the instrument learning process)
5. **Practice** (students are expected to practice their lesson assignments and band music assignments for at least 20 minutes daily, as well as complete any written assignments that may occur)
6. **Participation** (it is a required part of the instrumental music program that students actively participate in *all* band rehearsals, concerts, and related events that occur during the school year)
7. **Notebook Assignments/Checking Ms. Russo's E-Board** (students are required to have a notebook at each class, containing a parent signature under their written HW assignment. HW assignments are printed and taped into each student's notebook and also found by logging onto Ms. Russo's E-board. Students MUST check the E-board every day!)
8. **Performance/Skill Level** (students are expected to demonstrate an appropriate level of skill through performance during lessons and band rehearsals)

\*\*I have attached a "sample" Progress Report to this information packet, in addition to the monthly performance Test Rubrics for "Pitch-Producing" Instrumental Students AND Percussion Students.

## **PARTICIPATION IN BAND:**

Students are required to participate in all band ensemble rehearsals and performances (as applicable), as it provides further strengthening of music fundamentals through use of diverse listening and discerning skills which are common and quite necessary in active participation.

Because most of our Band Rehearsals take place in the morning before school, it is extremely important to check the monthly calendar and read the Remind Text Alerts that are sent if there is a change in the calendar for any reason.

Listed below are the Bands which are offered at East Quogue School, as well as the starting and ending periods:

Advanced Band Rehearsals:	8:00am – Tuesday Mornings (from 09/18/2018 –thru December Concert Performance-12/19/18) (Resumes on 01/22/2019 – thru May Concert Performance-5/15/19)
Beginning Band Rehearsals:	8:00am – Friday Mornings (from 01/18/2019 – through May Concert Performance-5/21&22/19)
Marching Band Rehearsals:	ALL 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade instrumental students; 8:00am – Monday Mornings beginning 1/14/19
Jazz Band <u>Auditions</u> (times vary)	2 Weeks ONLY – Beginning January 2, 2019 through January 16, 2019 (Audition days/times will vary, as per individual audition appointments)
Jazz Band Rehearsals:	3:20pm – 5:20pm Every Wednesday (02/27/2019– through Spring Concert Performance-5/15/19)
Drama Club Pit Band	TBD - (Participation and student involvement TBD with rehearsals varying, based upon the Drama Club rehearsal schedule and student availability to perform)
Graduation Band Rehearsals:	ALL 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade instrumental students; TBD (Days and/or times will vary based upon kindergarten and sixth grade graduation practices, and will correspond to the sixth grade practice schedule)

## **INSTRUMENT RENTAL, PERCUSSION PURCHASES, and BOOK PURCHASES**

All students are required to obtain their own instruments and lesson books. All percussion students must purchase their own drum sticks and practice pad (size 5a or 7a drumsticks; 12 inch practice pad – any brand will do), in addition to the Ed Sueta “Percussion” Method Lesson Book.

Since we are eager to start our lessons as soon as possible to, please try to have your lesson book and instrument no later than 9/24/18, and DO NOT try putting together ANY PORTION of your new instrument until your first lesson with Ms. Russo. Students should plan to attend the first lesson with their pencil and notebook, and instrument and lesson book (even if they do not have their instrument or lesson book yet)

**Students are also responsible for having the needed materials for maintaining and performing properly on their instrument (reeds, cork grease, neck straps, valve oil, etc.) throughout the year.**

The required lesson book for your child is listed below. Please be sure to obtain the appropriate instrument book within the first two weeks of class.

**Beginners :** Ed Sueta Band Method Book 1\*\* (see NOTE)  
(any 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grader)

**\*\*You must be certain that the lesson book matches the instrument you plan on playing/learning.**

**Advanced 5<sup>th</sup> graders:** No need to purchase a new book at this time; bring last year’s book with you to your lessons- you will be told exactly “when” your “new book purchase” will likely occur.

**Advanced 6<sup>th</sup> graders:** If this is your second year playing the same instrument, please bring last year’s book with you and do not purchase a new book, until told to do so.

If this is your third year playing the same instrument, please purchase:  
Ed Sueta Band Method Book 2\*\*(see NOTE)

## **REPUTABLE MUSIC STORES**

Family Melody 77 South Ocean Avenue, Patchogue, NY 11772 631-475-3210	Music and Arts 30 W Main St Riverhead, NY 11901 631-727-2897 (Online purchasing for instrumental music needs/supplies is also available)	Suffolk Music Center 208 Medford Avenue Patchogue, NY 11772 631-654-8430	Crossroads Music 160 Main Street Amagansett, NY 11930 631-907-4838
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\*\*\*Please see attached info sheet regarding whether or not it’s best to you “RENT” OR “PURCHASE” an instrument for your child.

## To Rent or Purchase/Own: Which is best?

The helpful information listed below is designed to answer questions/concerns about providing an instrument for your child participating in the instrumental music /band program. Should you have any questions/concerns that aren't addressed below, please feel free to contact me via email at: [prusso@eastquogue.k12.ny.us](mailto:prusso@eastquogue.k12.ny.us) or text me via "Remind".

### If you choose to RENT an instrument:

1. Typically, the monthly payments of an instrument rental (rent to own) eventually go toward the purchase of the instrument, should your child really like the chosen instrument and you decide at the end of the year that your child will continue to learn that same instrument for the following year; in those cases, it is less expensive to purchase it outright than to rent for another year.
2. Instrument rentals provide parents the opportunity to have their child learn an instrument with monthly affordability, as payments are stretched out over the course of the school year.
3. Most instrument rentals also include basic repairs as part of the monthly rental fee, but you must ask the music store at the time of signing the rental agreement to be certain; as with the rental costs, rental policies also differ with each music retail store. (Should you purchase an instrument, it is also advised that you ask about any repair costs included in the purchase price covered for at least the first year from the purchase date.)

### If you choose to PURCHASE/OWN an instrument:

Although the initial cost to purchase an instrument can be expensive, there are some benefits that can offset that initial expense:

1. To keep the expense of purchasing an instrument to a minimum, ask the music store retailer for a used instrument in "good", "excellent", or "like-new" condition, and also make sure you are being shown instruments which carry any of the following brand names: Selmer, Bundy, Yamaha, Armstrong, Gemeinhardt, Blessing, Artley, or Conn. Most of these instrument manufacturers have been making student instruments for over 40 years (some, much more than that) and design instruments to last and withstand typical wear and tear from school-aged children. They are quality instruments, without a hefty price tag (when purchasing instruments in "good", "excellent", or "like-new" condition).
2. Purchasing an instrument from a retail music store may have repair costs included in the purchase price covered for at least the first year from the purchase date; since policies differ from store to store, you must inquire about this at the time of purchase.  
**\*\*Please note:** purchasing a musical instrument via Craig's List, EBAY, a yard sale, etc. (sometimes even an online retailer) typically does NOT provide you with any warranty, nor include repair costs at the time of purchase.
3. Purchasing an instrument through a Wholesale/Big Club Store (BJ's, Costco, or online, etc.) has proven to provide very poor instrument quality whereby instruments are weakly and poorly manufactured, and are susceptible to breakage, damage, repairs, from what would otherwise be very normal/average daily student usage.
4. The resale value of some used, like-new, and brand-new instruments, allow the opportunity for parents to recover some of the purchase cost, should your child no longer wish to continue to learn that chosen instrument.

# **“Remind” app Registration**

**(Receive text messages and Band communications)**

To register to receive text messages, alerts, and communications for your child in our Band Program, please follow the instructions listed below:

1. Download the Remind app. On your cell phone (it's free)  
Or go online: [https://www.remind.com/send\\_the\\_app](https://www.remind.com/send_the_app)
2. To register for text alerts and messaging for EQ Bands and/or Drama Club, Send one of the class codes listed below to: **81010**
3. Choose one of the following class codes to text in the message to the number listed above:
  - For Beginning Band- Text: **@eq-beg-bnd** to **81010**
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  - For Marching Band- Text: **@eqmarchbnd** to **81010**
  - For Jazz Band- Text: **@eqjazz** to **81010**
  - For Graduation Band- Text: **@eqgradband** to **81010**
  - For Drama Club- Text: **@eqdrama** to **81010**



**East Ouogue Elementary School  
Instrumental Music Progress Report**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 06/22/2018 Overall grade \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: FLUTE Trimester: 3

<u>Graded Criteria</u>	Excellent (4)	Average (3)	Fair (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
<b>Attendance:</b> Student follows lesson schedule, and attends lessons, band rehearsals, and concerts regularly.				
<b>Preparedness:</b> Student attends each lesson with instrument, lesson book, notebook, and pencil, and checks Ms. Russo's E-board daily.				
<b>Effort/Following Directions:</b> Student follows homework and class directions and shows an interest and willingness to learn.				
<b>Attitude:</b> Student is well behaved and cooperative and attends lessons, rehearsals, and/or concerts with a positive approach.				
<b>Practice:</b> Student makes sufficient efforts to practice assignments at home that were given during lesson instruction.				
<b>Participation:</b> Student actively participates during lessons and during attendance in rehearsals/concerts.				
<b>Skill Level/Technique of Instrument and Performance:</b> Student demonstrates the <u>appropriate level</u> of skill through performance exercises and various music selections.				
Articulation/tonguing				
Breathing (breath control and volume control)				
Intonation/ Tone/Correct Pitch				
Posture				
Fingerings/Drum Stick handling and grip				
Note/Pitch/Rest Reading				
Rhythm Reading/Counting				
Steady Beat (even tempo)				
Lesson Book Assignments				
Band Concert Music				
Scales				

**TEACHER COMMENTS:** (if applicable)

Date 06/22/2018

Ms. Penni A. Russo East Ouogue Instrumental Music Teacher

*Have a wonderful and restful Summer Vacation!!!*

## Performance Rubric for Drum/Percussion Students

Name of Selected Musical Piece/Exercise:	100	99-90	89-80	79-75	74-65	64-55	54-50	49-0	SCORE
<b>Tempo/Steady Beat</b>	Smooth, fluid accuracy is <u>entirely</u> performed	Minor tempo flow/some hesitations	<u>Some</u> errors	Tempo pauses that disrupt and stop the rhythmic flow	<u>Weak</u> Proficiency	Numerous tempo pauses which make it difficult to steer performance	<u>Tremendous</u> errors and inaccuracies make the selection unrecognizable		<u>X</u>
<b>Grip Technique</b>	Accurate Grip Technique is <u>entirely</u> performed	Grip Technique is <u>mostly</u> accurately performed	<u>Some</u> minor errors	Grip Technique has <u>Several</u> errors	<u>Weak</u> Proficiency	Grip Technique has <u>Numerous</u> errors	<u>Tremendous</u> errors and inaccuracies make the selection unrecognizable		<u>X</u>
<b>Rhythm Reading and Counting Accuracy</b>	Accurate note/rest rhythm values are <u>entirely</u> performed	<u>Most</u> rhythms and symbols are accurately performed	<u>Some</u> errors	Rhythms and note/rest values are performed with <u>Several</u> errors	<u>Weak</u> Proficiency	Rhythms and note/rest values are performed with <u>Numerous</u> errors	<u>Tremendous</u> errors and inaccuracies make the selection unrecognizable		<u>X</u>
<b>Rudiment Drills: Single Stroke/FIams</b>	Accurate/Proper Style/Technique is <u>entirely</u> performed	Rudiment drill technique contains <u>Few</u> errors	Rudiment drill technique contains <u>Some</u> errors	Rudiment drill Technique contains <u>Several</u> errors	<u>Weak</u> Proficiency	Rudiment drill Technique contains <u>Numerous</u> errors and is weakly performed	<u>Tremendous</u> inaccuracies make the rudiment drill Technique unrecognizable		<u>X</u>
<b>Multiple Bounce</b>	Accurate/Proper Style/Technique is <u>entirely</u> performed	Rudiment drill technique contains <u>Few</u> errors	Rudiment drill technique contains <u>Some</u> errors	Rudiment drill Technique contains <u>Several</u> errors	<u>Weak</u> Proficiency	Rudiment drill Technique contains <u>Numerous</u> errors and is weakly performed	<u>Tremendous</u> inaccuracies make the rudiment drill Technique unrecognizable		<u>X</u>
<b>Double Stroke Roll</b>	Accurate/Proper Style/Technique is <u>entirely</u> performed	Rudiment drill technique contains <u>Few</u> errors	Rudiment drill technique contains <u>Some</u> errors	Rudiment drill Technique contains <u>Several</u> errors	<u>Weak</u> Proficiency	Rudiment drill Technique contains <u>Numerous</u> errors and is weakly performed	<u>Tremendous</u> inaccuracies make the rudiment drill Technique unrecognizable		<u>X</u>
<b>Paradiddle</b>	Accurate/Proper Style/Technique is <u>entirely</u> performed	Rudiment drill technique contains <u>Few</u> errors	Rudiment drill technique contains <u>Some</u> errors	Rudiment drill Technique contains <u>Several</u> errors	<u>Weak</u> Proficiency	Rudiment drill Technique contains <u>Numerous</u> errors and is weakly performed	<u>Tremendous</u> inaccuracies make the rudiment drill Technique unrecognizable		<u>X</u>
<b>Application of Proper Technique</b>	Accurate TECHNICAL aspects are <u>entirely</u> performed	<u>Few</u> inconsistencies <u>minimally</u> interfere with performance	<u>Some</u> errors	<u>Several</u> errors alter with the musical flow	<u>Weak</u> Proficiency	<u>Numerous</u> errors which make it difficult to navigate a smooth performance	<u>Little/No</u> evidence of technique, and make the selection unrecognizable		<u>X</u>
<b>Application of Musical Expression</b>	Accurate aspects of MUSICAL EXPRESSION are <u>entirely</u> performed	<u>Most</u> aspects of musical expression are evident and correctly performed	Aspects of musical expression are evident but with <u>Some</u> errors	<u>Several</u> errors deteriorate a steady performance	<u>Weak</u> Proficiency	Expression is <u>poorly</u> performed and only <u>loosely</u> present	<u>Little/No</u> evidence of musical expression/musicality is present		<u>X</u>
<b>Posture</b>	Playing posture and instrument handling is consistent with instrument needs	<u>Few</u> discrepancies minimally interfere with performance	<u>Minor</u> errors	<u>Several</u> errors interfere with the musical flow	<u>Poor</u> posture	<u>Numerous</u> errors which make it difficult for student to perform	<u>Tremendous</u> Errors with <u>Little/No</u> evidence of posture, making the performed selection unrecognizable		<u>X</u>



**East Quogue Elementary School  
Instrumental Music Progress Report**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 06/22/2018 Overall grade \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: DRUMS/PERCUSSION Trimester: 3

<u>Graded Criteria</u>	Excellent (4)	Average (3)	Fair (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
<b>Attendance:</b> Student follows lesson schedule, and attends lessons, band rehearsals, and concerts regularly.	S	3	2	1
<b>Preparedness:</b> Student attends each lesson with instrument, lesson book, notebook, and pencil, and checks Ms. Russo's E-board daily.				
<b>Effort/Following Directions:</b> Student follows homework and class directions and shows an interest and willingness to learn.				
<b>Attitude:</b> Student is well behaved and cooperative and attends lessons, rehearsals, and/or concerts with a positive approach.				
<b>Practice:</b> Student makes sufficient efforts to practice assignments at home that were given during lesson instruction.				
<b>Participation:</b> Student actively participates during lessons and during attendance in rehearsals/concerts.				
<b>Skill Level/Technique of Instrument and Performance:</b> Student demonstrates the appropriate level of skill through performance exercises and various music selections.				
Drum Stick grip				
Proper Musical Expression/use of volume and stick control	S	3	2	1
Posture				
Steady Beat (even tempo)				
Rhythm Reading/ and Counting				
Drill Rudiments (single stroke, Flam, Drum Rolls Paradiddle, etc.)				
Lesson Book Assignments				
Band Concert Music				
Marching Band Cadence/Music (for 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade students ONLY)				

**TEACHER COMMENTS:** (if applicable)

Date 06/22/2018

Ms. Penni A. Russo East Quogue Instrumental Music Teacher

*Have a wonderful and restful Summer Vacation!!!*

