



Dear Oquenock 4th Grade Band Parents, Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! I hope you all had a restful summer! I am extremely excited to begin working with this new group of 4th graders.

Instrumental lessons will take place during the school day and begin on Wednesday, September 11th for all 4th graders. Attached is a schedule that will explain what day and time students have instrumental class each week. If you have not had the opportunity to secure an instrument for the year, please do so ASAP. Instrument rentals are available at the local music stores. Students playing the baritone will receive an instrument from the school during their first lesson class. ***Please make sure all instrument cases are labeled with your first and last name and classroom number!***

Other supplies needed are as follows:

- ☐ Essential Elements book 1 for your instrument
- ☐ Music folder for practice materials and band music
- ☐ Valve oil for brass players
- ☐ *Clarinet players will need:* Reeds (in the plastic protective case)
 - Clarinet Beginners should use reeds of strength 2 - ***No flavored reeds, please!***
- ☐ Instrument cleaning cloth
- ☐ Music stand for practicing at home

Weekly before - school band rehearsals will not begin until January.

In January, we will begin preparations for our spring concert. We will have rehearsal ***every*** Wednesday morning at 8:00 am.

Last, but definitely not least, practicing is extremely important to musical success. Playing an instrument requires a great deal of muscle memory and dexterity. These skills can only be improved by contact time with the instrument. Parents, I ask that you help your children by providing time and space for practicing. Students should use a music stand and a straight backed chair to ensure correct posture. I am encouraging all students to practice ***every day, even for just 5 minutes!*** Developing the muscles to play an instrument takes time, and a little bit each day can go a long way! Please feel free to reach out with any questions; I can be reached by email at: s.nicou@wi.k12.ny.us, or by Parent Square message. I look forward to an exciting year of creating music!

Sincerely,

Ms. Nicou