

Hello everyone,

I hope this announcement finds you and your loved ones in good health. As we prepare for the upcoming weeks in continuing our students' education at home, I want to make sure parents and students have access to quality music resources that are comprehensive and easy to use. Some of the most important components of a music education are independence and regular practice. During times of uncertainty, these are skills which will benefit students for the rest of their lives. While we may not be able to practice as ensembles in our schools, we can still develop these skills in many ways at home.

I have included information, links, and online resources which should help guide students and parents in their musical endeavors along with my recommendations on how to approach these resources. My intention with these resources is to provide students a means to practice and develop skills which have been covered throughout the year and allow them opportunities to explore and discover new music on their own. However, given how this is a performance based class, many of the standard lessons, rehearsals, and performances will not be possible in distance learning/online format. There has resulted in some changes in what/how music curriculum will be offered to students.

Music sessions can include practicing an instrument, completing an online lesson, watching a YouTube video, singing, writing music, sight reading, listening, recording, worksheets, reflections, performances, and more. As for how much to practice, that is a decision parents and students must decide on their own after considering their other academic and personal responsibilities. I recommend 1-3 music sessions on days where you are focusing on academic work. I would start with the resources provided below for each grade and once completed, branch out and explore some of the other resources provided. You can keep track of your progress with the provided practice log if you wish (see attachment). This packet will include a wide variety of resources and exercises for students to complete. Future packets may include specific prompts, worksheets, or additional activities to complete. If you have specific musical instruments or equipment available, let me know I can create or provide additional lessons and materials.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns. I am more than willing to assist students and parents via email, phone, skype, zoom, or whichever platform works best for you and your student. I understand that these are uncertain times for many of us. If you need additional resources or specific equipment/instruments, please contact me and I will do my best accommodate your needs. I also hope that each of you will take the time to appreciate how the arts can help us all through difficult times whether it be music, art, literature, games, dancing, film, or television. The arts play a crucial role in our lives and can thrive even in these uncertain times. Stay safe and please reach out if you need anything. Thank you!

Sincerely,

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## Tips:

- Practice makes PERMANENT, not perfect.
- Set a time limit for your practice session based on what you want to accomplish (15 min., 30 min, 45 min, etc.). Remember, longer sessions do not always guarantee more results. Set times where you are able to remain focused and engaged, even if that means a shorter session.
- Find music which *motivates* you! We all have our favorite musicians/artists but take this time to discover new music! [Spotify](#) and [YouTube](#) are excellent sources of music at no cost. All you need is an email to setup accounts on either platform (such as a school email or personal email). If you do not have an email, you can create a google email account for free here: [\\*accounts.google.com/signup\\*](https://accounts.google.com/signup)
- Take the time to maintain or even improve your music theory skills. Music theory and performing are two sides of the same coin. Practicing one will help with the other. [Musictheory.net](https://www.musictheory.net) is a free and easy online tool to use and counts as a practice session. Another excellent resource for younger students is [www.classicsforkids.com](http://www.classicsforkids.com). Write down and record the lessons you do online in your practice record.
- Go online and find new music to play! [IMSLP](#) and [google](#) offer large amounts of free music to explore. There are also many music publishers who provide music from popular genres, movies, TV shows, and more available for every instrument (usually in the form of books or sheet music). You may find something exciting and fun!
- Find a buddy to practice with! Practicing with a friend is a great way to learn and keep each other accountable. Learn a piece you found online, try to figure out the notes to a favorite song, sightread numbers out of the book, anything!
- If available, explore the possibility of private lessons online or in person. Private lessons are a fantastic way to develop your skills and take your playing to the next level. Contact M. Rowland if you have any questions about how to start (contact info provided).
- If you wish to purchase or rent equipment or materials for your student(s) such as instruments, sheet music, audio equipment, etc., please consult with me beforehand. There are many brands, models, designs, companies, and websites to consider. I have seen too many students make the mistake of purchasing incorrect or poorly made materials which can hinder their musical development. Please contact me for guidance and recommendations.

## **ONLINE RESOURCES:**

**K-4:** This an excellent resource for composers, notes, and rhythms with games and exercises designed for younger students. The second is a random rhythm generator where students can practice rhythms in whatever method they prefer (singing, clapping, tapping, hitting, etc.)

<https://www.classicsforkids.com/>

<http://www.rhythmrandomizer.com/>

**5-8:** In addition to practicing their band instruments, music theory and literacy is a critical component of musicianship. I have included several resources each with lessons at different ability levels. A random rhythm generator has also been provided so that students can sightread rhythms on their own similar to how we do in class. There is also a link to an app to allow students to record and multitrack themselves for their own projects.

<https://www.musictheory.net/lessons>

<http://www.rhythmrandomizer.com/>

<https://www.mixcord.co/pages/acapella>

**Wind Instruments:** Most of these links are YouTube channels. YouTube is an excellent source of inspiration and knowledge for music. Simply search for specific concepts or instruments in the channels below or on your own and explore. I have included links for specific wind instruments but feel free to search for any concept you would like to explore.

**Flute-** <https://www.youtube.com/user/MrSelfridge/videos>

**Clarinet-** <https://www.youtube.com/user/MrSelfridge/videos>

**Trumpet-** <https://www.youtube.com/user/MrSelfridge/videos>

<https://www.trombone101.com/learn-from-the-masters>

**Trombone-** <https://www.trombone101.com/learn-from-the-masters>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ6e1LKFxcow-RknwOQJv0A>

**Euphonium/Tuba-** <https://www.youtube.com/user/MrSelfridge/videos>

**Music Theory:** Additional resources for music theory, designed more for older students.

<https://www.musictheory.net/lessons>

<https://www.teoria.com/index.php>

<https://tonesavvy.com/>

**Composition Software:** Professional software for writing and composing music.

Tutorials and videos to help learn and master the software are available online and through

their website. There are many different options for music notation available. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like specific lessons on music notation.

<https://musescore.org/en>

**Listening:** Listening is one of the best ways to develop musicality! A student can never do too much listening. Spotify and YouTube are excellent sources of free music. In addition to their favorite artists and bands, have students explore different musicians and genres for their instrument. There are entire worlds of music for each instrument to explore and discover. I have also included a link to the Berlin Philharmonic Digital Concert Hall, one of the greatest orchestras the world. Setting up accounts is very simple and easy to do with an email. See below if you need to setup a quick and easy email account.

<https://www.berliner-philharmoniker.de/en/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/usarmyband/featured>

<https://accounts.spotify.com/en/login/>

### **Create an email account:**

<https://support.google.com/mail/answer/56256?hl=en>

**Additional Resources and Articles:** Here is a link to additional online resources. The online music world is vast and comprehensive. If you are exploring and have questions about different resources, techniques, ideas, or strategies, please contact me. Otherwise, please explore the various resources listed here. There is plenty of content for both parents and students here.

[https://yamahaeducatorsuite.com/online-teaching?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=ad&utm\\_campaign=verticaleducation&utm\\_term=socialmedia&utm\\_content=educatorsuitelead&fbclid=IwAR3wLFhApBwHo0wVcIRFi4cec6ayrtCJK7NncGTsIZsliEgdnlkA3IGr4ls](https://yamahaeducatorsuite.com/online-teaching?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=ad&utm_campaign=verticaleducation&utm_term=socialmedia&utm_content=educatorsuitelead&fbclid=IwAR3wLFhApBwHo0wVcIRFi4cec6ayrtCJK7NncGTsIZsliEgdnlkA3IGr4ls)

*If online access is unavailable  
for you or your student,  
please contact me so that we  
can arrange alternate  
resources and materials  
individualized for your  
student's needs.*

