

EAST ROCHESTER DRUMLINE & PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE



If you're reading this, then you (or your child, if you are a parent) have probably decided to enroll in

Percussion Ensemble for the 2010-11 school year. Percussion Ensemble is a course like any other: students receive instruction, complete work based on that instruction, and have that work evaluated for a grade. Percussion Ensemble is much more than that, however. It is an opportunity for students to work as an essential, irreplaceable part of a team, and to try to together achieve excellence and even perfection.

The focus throughout most of the year is on drumline (marching percussion), but students will also work on concert percussion (which includes performing with the Wind Ensemble to form the complete High School Band), drumset, traditional world drumming from regions including Africa and South America, and other percussion concepts.

A lot is expected of students in Percussion Ensemble, and I ask that you please read this brochure carefully so that you fully understand these expectations. This is an elective course and an elective ensemble—you should only join if you are willing to work to be your best.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at mark_gowman@er.monroe.edu or by phone during school hours at (585) 248-6344.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Mark Gowman



Featured in the *Democrat & Chronicle*

erdrumline.com

- info for students & parents
- sheet music and practice audio files
- performance mp3's and videos
- schedules
- links to percussion sites



At NY State Percussion Championships, 2008

www.erdrumline.com

East Rochester High School
200 Woodbine Ave.
East Rochester, NY 14445
Phone: (585) 248-6344
Email: mark_gowman@er.monroe.edu



The Tradition of Excellence



Excellence, Commitment, & Respect

These three words are what the ERHS Drumline is all about. The ER Drumline in 2006-2009 reached standards that, just a few years earlier, I didn't think



we'd ever even approach. During two of those school years we chose to compete

in the NYS Percussion Circuit, and we placed in the top 5 in the state both years. The success of this group was due to the effort, commitment, and self-discipline shown by all of the students in the Drumline. Those students all graduated in 2008 and 2009, and we have faced 2009-2010 as a rebuilding year. Now, looking forward to 2010-11, we look to return to that level of excellence.

A TV commercial ran a few years ago that stated *Amateurs practice until they get it right; professionals practice until they can't get it wrong.* Following this statement, we need to be professional in our approach to this ensemble. Each member of the Drumline is expected to do his or her best at all times, to be very

well prepared, and to always work toward achieving excellence in both practice



and performance. In addition, we have expectations for personal behavior. Students in the Drumline are expected to always treat each other with respect, and to support each other both musically and personally. We will achieve our goals through encouragement and respect, not through insult or humiliation.

I hope you will consider what is written here, and will choose to join us on this exciting journey.

Commitment. Every good performing group has high standards in performance and behavior, and the East Rochester Drumline is a fine example of this. These high standards are crucial to our goal of building and maintaining a sense of teamwork, individual responsibility, and a quality performance. In many instances, we have only one person on each part, and a high level of commitment and preparation from each student is essential. Percussion Ensemble is a regularly scheduled class that meets every other day for the entire school day. Participation during this meeting time, however, is just the beginning of what is required.

LESSONS. We are very fortunate in East Rochester to live in both in an area of the country and a school district where the teaching of small group and private music

lessons is recognized to be an essential part of a music education curriculum. Each class a student



takes in school focuses on individual learning and individual achievement except for music ensembles, which are geared toward group learning and group success. Lessons are where students receive the individual instruction they need on their specific instrument, and are extremely valuable to young musicians. Percussion



lessons will typically have 4-9 students in each lesson

group, are grouped by ability, and meet once every five days. These are an essential part of the course, and are evaluated each week. Lessons comprise approximately one-third of students' grades.

HOME PRACTICE. Yes, there is regular homework for this course: Home practice is expected of every student, every night. This is the only way students will reach their individual potential, and the only way the entire group will reach its potential. Students are expected to be fully prepared for each class and lesson. We cannot afford to have anyone "along for the ride."

BAND CAMP. Actually, it's Drumline camp. This intense workshop at the beginning of the school year gives us an advantage in skills, work ethic, and preparation that would take months to make up, if we could make it up at all. Dates will be set as soon as possible.

ARE THERE COSTS? Well, yes. We need to all dress alike and will require a casual **uniform** that likely consist of a shirt and some minor accessories.

Most of the needed equipment is provided by the school, but **drumsticks and practice pads must be pro-**

vided by the student. The school is able to purchase sticks at a discounted rate and will pass that price on to students. Sticks should be \$8-\$10 (a set price will be given at the beginning of the school year), and will be available at the school. All players must use the same stick; all snare players must have a minimum of two good pairs available at all times, one set for practice, and one for performance. Tenor, bass, and cymbal players should also have a pair of sticks for practice and lessons. **If you cannot afford any of these items, we will find a way to cover the costs.**



PERFORMANCES. Please note: **All performances are mandatory.** This is a performance ensemble, and you should



not be in it if you are not going to be with us when we perform. There should never be a question about whether a student will be attending a performance. The

Drumline occasionally performs during the school day, but most performances occur outside of the school day. These include: Homecoming and other athletic events; Veteran's Day and Memorial Day Parades, school concerts, and other events that come up throughout the year.

COMMUNICATION is essential to our success. If you ever have questions, I can be reached during the school day at **(585) 248-6344** or anytime at **mark_gowman@er.monroe.edu**. Please also regularly visit us at **www.erdumline.com**.