

**PORT JEFFERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**OFFICE OF MUSIC & FINE ARTS**  
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Paul Casciano, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Michael Caravello, Ed. D.  
Director of Music and Fine Arts

April 29, 2019

Paul Newland, Outreach Director  
Staller Center for the Arts  
Stony Brook University  
2032 Staller Center  
Stony Brook, NY 11794-5425

Dear Mr. Newland,

On behalf of the orchestra students and families of the Port Jefferson School District, thank you for all the numerous opportunities you have given us this school year. From Orpheus Chamber Orchestra in the fall, Turtle Island Quartet in the winter, and the fabulous Emerson String Quartet this spring, we are so appreciative of everything you do to support a love and appreciation for live music within our school community.

You have been instrumental in developing a culture in our orchestra programs that supports putting down the screens and attending a concert on a Friday night with our families. We all look forward to these evenings together, so much so that I usually "sell-out" within a few hours of sending the email! We had a local quartet perform for our middle school musicians a few weeks ago. I was in awe of our orchestra students who sat still and silent while they watched the entire performance. So many of these students have attended concerts at Staller for many years. The impact of these experiences is evident and has taught them not only the joy in performing, but in listening and watching live concerts as well.

Thank you Paul for your generosity and partnership. Your influence in our small school is tremendous and we value our relationship with you. Enjoy your summer and we look forward to next year!

Sincerely,



Vanessa Salzman, D.M.A.  
4-6 Orchestra Teacher  
Port Jefferson School District