

# Archie R. Cole Middle School

## Band and Orchestra Program Handbook

### 2011 – 2012



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# WELCOME

We would like to welcome all of you to the Cole Middle School Music Department!! In order to have a successful and rewarding experience as a member of the Cole Music Department, we ask for your support and dedication throughout this school year.

This handbook is designed to give you an idea of my philosophy, grading policy and expectations for each member of the music department. Important information regarding performance dates, concert dress code, RIMEA sponsored events, instrument vendors and private teacher lists can also be found in this handbook. Therefore, we ask that all parents and students read through the entire handbook and fill-out the form at the end of the handbook.

A key to having a successful school year is having good communication between the teacher, parents and students. In order to aid in this communication, we have provided you with our e-mail addresses, school phone numbers and website address. The instrumental music department website contains up-to-date rehearsal and performance information in addition to other valuable music department news. If you have not done so already, parents are strongly encouraged to sign-up for electronic bulletins by providing me with their e-mail address on the "Agreement Form" located on page 13. The purpose of the e-mail communications and website is to help keep the student and parent informed of all music department updates.

We look forward to a wonderful year,  
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Website: <http://egcolemusic.com>

## E.G. DISTRICT'S MUSIC PHILOSOPHY

Music is a vehicle of self-expression. It symbolizes the movement of feelings alternating between struggle and fulfillment, intensity and release, rise and fall, movement and repose. Music is unique in that it is a nonverbal mode of expression produced by tonal movement in virtual time. The purpose of music education is to help students gain insight to the expressive or aesthetic quality of music. Insight is gained through one's power of perception and reaction; so therefore, music education should enhance these powers in the student.

The ability to perceive and react to music is achieved through listening, studying, and performing. In a sequential comprehensive music education program students are given the opportunity to listen, study, and perform.

Through the study of music, students gain insight into the nature of life, the expression of feeling, and an awareness of culture. The study of music sharpens perceptual and analytical abilities and nurtures the creativity and imagination needed for innovating, thinking, and problem solving. Students are equipped with another means of self-expression, and, thus better able to cope with himself/herself and the world in which he/she lives.

# MUSIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## Concert Band

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Full Year (4)**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert Band is intended for students with or without prior band experience. The concert band meets four hours per week during the scheduled school day. The content literature is based upon the Essential Elements 2000 Book I & II. The fundamentals of playing and reading music will be reinforced in each class using the Essential Elements 2000 Book I & II along with the book entitled Basics in Rhythm. These books are used in conjunction with appropriate grade level sheet music throughout the school year. Both are used to aid in the development of the student's individual musicianship while stressing the technique of ensemble playing. The concert band will present several concerts throughout the school year. Because the band is split into two classes, there will be at least two full ensemble rehearsals held in the morning prior to each concert. Advance notice will be given prior to all morning rehearsals. **Please look over the list of concert dates found on page 11 of this handbook and mark these important dates onto your calendar.**

## Concert Band

### **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Full Year (4)**

The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Combined Concert Band is intended for students who have prior band experience. The concert band meets four hours per week during the scheduled school day. The content literature is based upon the Essential Elements 2000 Book I for 7<sup>th</sup> grade band and Book II for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade concert band students. These method books will be used to reinforce the musical concepts and terminology that students learned in their prior band classes. Students will also continue to work out of the Basics in Rhythm book in conjunction with appropriate grade level sheet music throughout the entire school year. Both are used to aid in the development of the student's individual musicianship while stressing the technique of ensemble playing. The concert band will present several concerts throughout the school year. Because the band is split into four classes, there will be at least two full ensemble rehearsals held in the morning prior to each concert. Advance notice will be given prior to all morning rehearsals. **Please look over the list of concert dates found on page 11 of this handbook and mark these important dates onto your calendar.**

## **Orchestra**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Full Year (4)**

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra is intended for those who have prior experience on a string instrument. The orchestra meets four hours per week during the scheduled school day. If there are any extra rehearsals needed before a concert or performance, plenty of notice will be given. The content literature is based on the Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 for strings. Fundamentals and technique will be taught using the Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 and possibly Book 2. In conjunction with the method book, appropriate grade level sheet music will be used throughout the year. There will be a strong emphasis on instrumental technique and ensemble playing. The orchestra will present several concerts during the school year. **Please look over the list of concert dates found on page 11 of this handbook and mark these important dates onto your calendar.**

## **Orchestra**

### **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Full Year (4)**

The Orchestra is open to all string students. The orchestra meets four hours per week during the scheduled school day. The orchestra will also meet on specified Friday mornings at 7:00 a.m. to combine with the woodwinds, brass and percussion (prior notice will be given). The content literature is based upon the Essential Elements 2000 for Strings Books I & II. The fundamentals of playing and reading music will be reinforced in each class using the Essential Elements 2000 for Strings Books I & II. The books will be used in conjunction with appropriate grade level sheet music throughout the entire school year. Both are used to aid in the development of the student's individual musicianship while stressing the technique of ensemble playing. The orchestra will be modeled after a symphony orchestra. Woodwind, brass and percussion players will be added at the director's discretion. The orchestra will present several concerts throughout the school year. **Please look over the list of concert dates found on page 11 of this handbook and mark these important dates onto your calendar.**

## **Jazz Ensemble**

### **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only (Extra-Curricular, No Credit)**

#### **Prerequisite – Must audition for Mr. Levesque**

The Jazz Ensemble is open to a limited number of students by audition only. It will meet at 7:00 a.m., four days a week (Monday – Thursday). The Jazz Ensemble will be modeled after big band playing with the twelve bar blues being emphasized. It will rehearse and perform age and ability appropriate repertoire which will include the following styles: Swing, Ballad, Jazz Rock and Latin.

The Jazz Ensemble will be comprised of the following instruments only: Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Trumpet, Trombone, Piano, Guitar, Bass Guitar and the Drum Set. The Jazz Ensemble will present several concerts throughout the school year along with the East Greenwich High School Jazz Ensemble. **Please look over the list of concert dates found on page 11 of this handbook and mark these important dates onto your calendar.**

## ADDITIONAL ENSEMBLE INFO.

### ♪ Morning Rehearsals

1. At least two full concert band rehearsals will be held the week(s) leading up to each concert before school.
2. At least three full symphony orchestra rehearsals will be held the weeks leading up to the concert before school.
3. Jazz Ensemble – 7:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday (you must be prepared to play by 7:00 a.m.) **Constant lateness and/or absence to morning jazz rehearsals will result in dismissal from the Jazz Ensemble.**

### ♪ Performances (refer to performance schedule, pg. 11)

1. School concerts
2. Adjudicated festivals (RIMEA festivals)
3. Graduation (7<sup>th</sup> grade concert band performs)
4. “Best Of Concert” (8<sup>th</sup> grade only)
5. Other special performances may be scheduled with proper notice given.

## CONCERT DRESS CODE

### 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert Band, Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble

**All Students:** Music students are required to wear black pants/slacks, black shoes and the Cole music department polo shirt to all performances. Polo shirts can be purchased through Mr. Levesque and Mrs. Catelli at a cost of \$15 per shirt.

**\*\* Students are required to be in proper uniform for all performances. Students not in proper uniform will not be allowed to perform which will count as an UNEXCUSED ABSENCE!!**

# GRADING POLICY

ALL CONCERT BAND AND ORCHESTRA classes are courses which each receive one full credit (the same as English, Math, Science, etc.) Attendance at rehearsals (before school prior to a concert) and performances are mandatory. It is understood that sometimes there is a legitimate conflict with a rehearsal and/or a performance. The student must discuss this with the director **well in advance** so that the conflict can be resolved. It is the student's responsibility to keep his/her activity calendar up to date and refer to it on a regular basis.

## ♪ **How you will be graded quarterly**

1. Classroom/Rehearsal Etiquette – 50%
  - a. Brings his/her instrument and pencil to class/rehearsal
  - b. On time and ready to play within 4 minutes of class
  - c. Courteous to fellow students and director
  - d. Quiet and attentive when the director steps onto the podium or stops during rehearsal to make a comment
  - e. Equipment and music put away properly
  - f. Attends scheduled morning rehearsals prior to performances
2. Performances/Exams – 45%
  - a. Performances
    1. Attends scheduled concert performances
    2. Meets all concert performance
  - b. Exams
    1. Written – based on information discussed in class from your Essential Elements method books
    2. Performance – based on tone, melodic and rhythmic accuracy, fingerings, scales and sight-reading
3. Music Enrichment – 5% (any of the following, totaling up to 10 points)
  - a. Attend a concert (no rock/rap), submit the concert program (5) and write a review (10). Points based on the review.
  - b. Listen to a recording (musicals, jazz or classical) and write a paper on it. Better the paper, better the points (5-10)
  - c. Audition for Jr. All-State (November) (5)
  - d. Participate in Jr. All-State (January & February) (10)
  - e. Participate in Solo & Ensemble (May) (10)
  - f. Performance outside of school (a family/friend function, church/temple) for 6 or more people (5)
  - g. Participate in any ensemble that meets weekly (RIPYO, Cole Jazz Band (10), Cole Sym. Orchestra - band students (5))
  - h. Practice weekly at home for an average of 100 minutes per week (10) **Must fill-out a new Cole practice chart weekly.**
  - i. Weekly Private Lessons (10) – **Must fill-out a new private lesson form each quarter (Private lesson forms and practice charts can be found on the website at <http://egcolemusic.com/handouts.htm> )**
  - j. Compose and perform your own song (free and easy to use notation software online. Please see me for info.) (10)
  - k. Participate in a musical theater production (10)
  - l. Any other ideas welcome, but must be approved

## PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

- ♪ Students must be in the proper uniform for all performances.
- ♪ Students not in proper uniform will not be allowed to perform. This will count as an **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE**.

Performances will be graded and will count towards a large portion of your total grade for that quarter. Students who are on time and who perform to expectation will receive a performance grade of 100%. Points will be deducted for each of the following:

- ♪ Tardiness
- ♪ Inappropriate audience and/or performance conduct
- ♪ Not ready to perform your instrumental part on time
- ♪ Any improper action that distracts other performers
- ♪ Any improper action that distracts the audiences attention from the performance

Any student who misses a performance for a “**legitimate reason**” and is **excused by the director** must complete a makeup assignment or receive a “0” for that performance. The student will be allowed to choose from the following list of options:

- ♪ One 2-3 page paper (typed or neatly written) on one of the following topics. With bibliography.
  1. History of your instrument
  2. Career options in music
  3. History of the Concert Band, Orchestra or Jazz Band in America
  4. Biography of a composer whose piece of music we are performing or have performed this year
- ♪ Prepare a solo for your instrument and perform for your class period during school.
- ♪ Creative, but educationally sound suggestions from students will also be considered.

## HOME PRACTICE

Regular and frequent home practice is an essential component of any quality performing ensemble. Therefore, all students are expected to do their part and **practice regularly** at home. Students are encouraged to practice for 100 *quality* minutes each week. Students will see a greater benefit if they practice for multiple days rather than cramming in their practice time in one or two days. If you intend on fulfilling your enrichment credit through home practice you must hand in your practice chart every Monday, **signed** by the parent/guardian, documenting the amount of time practiced during the previous week. Practice charts and a sample practice chart can be found and printed from the following webpage: <http://egcolemusic.com/handouts.htm>

(Simply scroll down the webpage and click on the practice chart link)

There is more than enough music to practice on a regular basis. Students may work on their scales/rudiments, method book, concert sheet music and even private lesson music. I also have solo music for all instruments. See me if interested or in need of suggestions. ***Remember, both you and the ensemble will benefit from home practice.***

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

Below is a list of required materials and accessories that your child will need throughout the course of the school year. Some items are necessary to produce a note while others are essential in the care and maintenance of your instrument. All of these items should be stored in the instrument case at all times.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS: Please label all items with your name if possible**

**Flute:** cleaning rod, a lint free cleaning cloth

**Clarinet:** swab, cork grease, box of reeds (Size 2 ½ or Size 3), reed guards

**Saxophone:** swab, cork grease, neck strap, box of reeds (Size 2 ½ or Size 3), reed guards

**Brass:** valve oil (trumpets, baritones, tubas), rotary oil (French Horns), slide oil or grease (trombones), tuning slide grease, straight mute (trumpets only – Humes & Berg Stonelined is the recommended straight mute)

**Percussion:** Snare drum sticks with your name on them (Vic Firth SD 1 recommended)

**Mallet percussion:** a pair of hard bell mallets (ex. Musser M405)

**Violin:** Rosin, shoulder rest, an extra set of strings

**Viola:** Rosin, shoulder rest, an extra set of strings

**Cello:** Rosin, an extra set of strings

**Double Bass:** Rosin, an extra set of strings

### **METHOD BOOKS:**

**Concert Band:** “Essential Elements 2000”, Book 1 – 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Book 2 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Orchestra:** “Essential Elements for Strings”, Book 1 (Book 2 can be purchased later in the school year when required)

**ALL INSTRUMENTS:** a pencil to write notes in your music and **MAKE SURE YOUR INSTRUMENT CASE IS CLEARLY LABELED WITH YOUR NAME ON IT!!**

### **OPTIONAL MATERIALS: (but highly recommended)**

**All Instruments:** Wired music stand for home, metronome and tuner

**Saxophones:** Pad Saver

**Trumpets only:** cleaning kit (kit contains a cloth, cleaning snake and a valve cleaning brush)

**Mallet Players only:** Soft bell mallets (ex. Musser M404)

**Cello and Double Bass Instruments only:** Endpin stop (Rockstop)

## INSTRUMENT RENTALS, REPAIRS AND SUPPLIES

Below you will find a recommended list of dealers for your instrument rentals, repairs and purchase needs. As always, it is a good idea to shop around for the best price with the best service. If shopping to purchase an instrument, make sure you find out the make and model of the instrument, as the dealers may offer different models and this may affect the price of the instrument.

♪ Robert's Music	823-3820 – West Warwick, RI
♪ Rick's Musical Instruments	658-3404 – Cumberland, RI
♪ Main Street Music Center	884-1430 – East Greenwich, RI
♪ Johnson Strings	1-800-359-9351 – Newton, MA
♪ Beekman Strings	284-0265 – Wakefield, RI

## **R.I.M.E.A. SPONSERED FESTIVALS**

The Rhode Island Music Educators Association (R.I.M.E.A.) sponsors several festivals during the course of the academic year. Some involve the band as a whole; others involve individuals or small groups of students.

### **RIMEA All-State:**

Cole 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade only concert band, orchestra and jazz ensemble members are eligible to audition for the Junior Division All-State Concert Band, Orchestra or Jazz Ensemble. In order to participate, the student will have to prepare an audition piece and major scales picked by the festival committee. Students will then present a live audition at Moses Brown in Providence. The audition will take place on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Levesque and Mrs. Catelli will know the results a few weeks later. The deadline for registering for an audition is October 14. If selected, you will be notified of all the remaining details at a later date, which include rehearsals and the concert performance date. Students that are serious about auditioning should see Mr. Levesque or Mrs. Catelli in the beginning of the year.

### **RIMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival:**

This is a non-competitive festival that is available to all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade concert band and orchestra students. The Solo & Ensemble Festival evaluates the student's or ensemble's performance by an expert adjudicator. Students will not be competing against any other students except themselves. This is a great opportunity for students to get constructive criticism from someone else besides their band, orchestra and private music teachers. If the student receives a rating in the A or B range, they receive a medal for their performance. Your director will receive the results later in the day and give them to their students the following Monday. This festival will take place during on May 12<sup>th</sup> at Rhode Island College. The deadline for registration is April 13<sup>th</sup>. Students that are interested in participating in the Solo & Ensemble Festival should speak to Mr. Levesque or Mrs. Catelli just prior to the schools February vacation.

# PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE 2011 – 2012

## Concert Band/Orchestra/Jazz Ensemble

Month:	Day:	Event:	Time:	Place:
October:	14	<b>Deadline</b> - All-State Registration	11:00 am	Cole
November:	19	All-State Auditions	TBA	Moses Brown
December:	7	<u>Cole Jazz Ensemble Concert</u>	7:00 pm	EGHS
	14	<u>Cole Winter Concert</u> (6 <sup>th</sup> Band/Orch.)	7:00 pm	Cole
	15	<u>Cole Winter Concert</u> (7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Band/Orch.)	7:00 pm	Cole
	22	<u>Cole Holiday Concert</u> (7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Band/Orch.)	1:00 pm	Cole
March:	7	<u>Cole Jazz Ensemble Concert</u>	7:00 pm	EGHS
April:	13	<b>Deadline</b> - Solo & Ensemble Registration	11:00 am	Cole
May:	2	<u>Cole Jazz Ensemble Concert</u>	7:00 pm	Cole
	12	RIMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival	TBA	RIC
	30	<u>Cole Spring Concert</u> (6 <sup>th</sup> Band/Orch.)	7:00 pm	Cole
	31	<u>Cole Spring Concert</u> (7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Band/Orch.)	7:00 pm	Cole
June:	TBA	<u>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation</u> (7 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Concert Band)	10:30 am	Cole

**\*\* Be sure to check the music website regularly for a complete list of up-to-date rehearsals and concert dates for Cole Middle School students, as well as, RIMEA Jr. All-State and Solo & Ensemble students.**



## **PRIVATE TEACHERS LIST**

STUDENTS OF ALL LEVELS AND ABILITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL SKILLS THROUGH PRIVATE LESSONS.

**See Mr. Levesque or Mrs. Catelli for a Private**

**Teacher list or you may request one via e-mail at:**

**[blevesque@egsd.net](mailto:blevesque@egsd.net)**

**[mcatelli@egsd.net](mailto:mcatelli@egsd.net)**

# COLE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## PARENT/STUDENT AGREEMENT

Once again, welcome to the Cole Middle School Music Department and we look forward to a rewarding and exciting school year. Please fill out this sheet below and return it to your band/orchestra teacher NO LATER than **Wednesday, September 14th**. Please remember to provide your ensemble director with your e-mail address below (if you have not done so already) which will be used for important music department announcements.

*\*\* If you provide us with your e-mail address below and in the near future you happen not to receive any e-mail notices, please contact your child's director via e-mail so we may correct your e-mail address. It is possible that we may have simply entered your e-mail information into our computer incorrectly.\*\**

### IMPORTANT:

I have gone over the band/orchestra handbook with \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Student's name)

We understand that band/orchestra is a yearlong academic class for which students earn grades that count towards the honor roll. We are familiar with the schedule; we respect and support the attendance and grading policy regarding classes, rehearsals, and performances.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address

[ ] My child is taking private lessons on his/her band or string instrument. *(This will help me keep my private teacher list up-to-date.)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Private teacher)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone)