

# Archie R. Cole Middle School

## Band and Orchestra Program Handbook

### 2022 – 2023



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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 our 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 email addresses, school phone numbers and instrumental music department 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 us with an email address on the "Agreement Form" located on page 13. The purpose of the email 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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## 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 Book I. The fundamentals of playing and reading music will be reinforced in each class using the Essential Elements Book I along with the book entitled Basics in Rhythm. In addition, students will also be using Alfred's Essential of Music Theory - Book 1. This book will reinforce all note/rhythmic reading and writing. 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 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 on 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 addition, students will also be using Alfred's Essential of Music Theory - Book 1. This book will reinforce all note/rhythm reading and writing. 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 on 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, and III. The fundamentals of playing and reading music will be reinforced in each class using the Essential Elements 2000 for Strings Books I, II, and III. 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. 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 on 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 7:30 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/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 on your calendar.**

## ADDITIONAL ENSEMBLE INFO.

### ♪ Morning/Extra Rehearsals

1. At least two full concert band rehearsals/orchestra will be held the week(s) leading up to each concert before school. Ample notice will be given.
2. Jazz Ensemble – 7:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday (you must be prepared to play by 7:30 a.m.) **Consistent tardiness and/or absence to morning jazz rehearsals will result in your dismissal from the Jazz Ensemble.**

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

1. School evening concerts
2. Swift Gym winter performance (Grade 8 only)
3. Elementary Band Day trip (Grade 6 only - perform at Eldredge/Hanaford)
4. String Fling (All String students - Grades 6-8)
5. Adjudicated festivals (Great East Festival – Grades 7&8)
6. Other special performances may be scheduled with proper notice given.

## CONCERT DRESS CODE

### 6th, 7th & 8th 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.

All students will be fitted and provided with a Cole music department polo shirt. All polo shirts must be washed and returned to their teacher at the end of the year or will be charged \$12.50 which is the cost of a replacement shirt.

**\*\*Students must provide their own black pants and black shoes.**

**\*\* 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 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. Classroom and homework assignments
  - b. Prepared and participates in classroom activities
  - c. Equipment and music put away properly
  - d. Attends scheduled morning rehearsals prior to performances
2. Performances/Exams – 50%
  - a. Performances
    1. Attends scheduled concert performances
    2. Meets all concert performance expectations
  - b. Exams
    1. Written – based on the information discussed in class from your Essential Elements and/or Essential of Music Theory method books
    2. Performance – Playing based on tone, melodic and rhythmic accuracy, fingerings, scales and sight-reading (this includes all playing assessments, i.e. SmartMusic, Flipgrid, etc.)

# 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, perform and behave to expectations 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 audience's attention from the performance

Any student who misses a performance for a “**legitimate reason**” and is **excused by the director** must perform all concert music for his/her director within one week of the performance. This makeup will take place after school and must be scheduled by the student with his/her director. If able, please notify your director ASAP if you will not be attending the concert.

Examples of a “**legitimate**” excused absence are:

- ♪ Serious illness
- ♪ Family emergency

# 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.

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:**

**\*\*ALL STUDENTS MUST LABEL THEIR INSTRUMENT CASE WITH YOUR NAME IN A VISIBLE LOCATION (NO KEYCHAINS, ETC.)**

**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)

**Percussion:** Snare drum sticks with your name on them (Vic Firth SD1 or SD1Jr. recommended) and/or a pair of hard bell mallets (ex. Musser M405) also with your name on it.

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

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

**Cello:** Rosin, cleaning cloth and an extra set of strings

**Double Bass:** Rosin, cleaning cloth and an extra set of strings

### **METHOD BOOKS:**

**Concert Band:** “Essential Elements 2000”, Book 1 – 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade, Book 2 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Orchestra:** Grade 6 - “Essential Elements for Strings”, Book 1; Grade 7 – “Essential Elements for Strings”, Book 2; Grade 8 – “Essential Technique for Strings” (Book 3)

**ALL INSTRUMENTS:** a pencil to write notes in your music

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

**All Instruments:** Metronome and tuner (there are online ones and apps for phones)

**Flutes, Clarinets, and Saxophones:** Pad Saver

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

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

**ALL STUDENTS should have a folding music stand at home to use while practicing**

## 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
♪ Acoustic Strings of New England	508-527-3857 – Plymouth, MA
♪ Johnson Strings	1-800-359-9351 – Newton, MA
♪ Beekman Strings	284-0265 – Wakefield, RI

# R.I.M.E.A. SPONSORED 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 Jr. All-State Festival:**

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 and audition on **November 19th**. Audition location is Moses Brown. Mr. Levesque and Mrs. Catelli will know the results soon after. The deadline for registering for an audition is **October 14th**. If selected, you will be notified of all the remaining details at a later date, which includes rehearsals and the concert's performance date. Students that are serious about auditioning should see Mr. Levesque or Mrs. Catelli at the beginning of the year.

Please click on your link below to view your audition requirements:

[Junior Concert Band \(Woodwinds and Brass Instruments\)](#)

[Junior Concert Band Percussion](#)

[Junior Jazz Band](#)

[Junior Strings Orchestra](#)

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

This is a non-competitive festival that is available to all 6th, 7th and 8th-grade concert band and orchestra students. The Solo & Ensemble Festival evaluates the students or ensemble's performance by an expert adjudicator. Students will not be competing against any other student. 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 on **May 20th** at Ponagansett HS. The deadline for registration is **April 6th**. Students that are interested in participating in the Solo & Ensemble Festival should speak to Mr. Levesque or Mrs. Catelli just prior to the school's February vacation.

# PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE 2022 – 2023

## 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 (Grades 7/8)	TBD	Moses Brown
December:	07	<u>Cole Jazz Ensemble Concert</u>	7:00 pm	EGHS
	08	<u>Cole Winter Concert</u> (7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Band/Orch.)	7:00 pm	Cole
	15	<u>Cole Winter Concert</u> (6 <sup>th</sup> Band/Orch.)	7:00 pm	Cole
	TBD	Swift Gym Performance (8th grade only)	TBD	EG-Swift Gym
	23	<u>Cole Holiday Concert</u> (7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Band/Orch.)	1:00 pm	Cole
March:	23	<u>Pops Concert</u> (7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Band/Jazz Ensemble)	7:00 pm	Cole
April:	05	Spring String Fling Concert – All Strings	7:00 pm	EGHS
	06	<b>Deadline</b> - Solo & Ensemble Registration	11:00 am	Cole
May:	03	<u>Cole Jazz Ensemble Concert</u>	7:00 pm	EGHS
	12	<u>Great East Music Festival</u> (Grade 7/8 only)	TBD	Six Flags
	18	<u>Cole Spring Concert</u> (7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Band/Orch.)	7:00 pm	Cole
	20	RIMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival	TBD	Ponagansett HS
	25	<u>Cole Spring Concert</u> (6 <sup>th</sup> Band/Orch.)	7:00 pm	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. Students accepted into the RI Jr. All-State and/or performing in the RIMEA Solo & Ensemble festival can view those dates on the website’s “[Performance Calendar](#)”.**

## PRIVATE TEACHERS

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

Please email [Mr. Levesque](#) or [Mrs. Catelli](#) for Private Teacher suggestions if interested.

## GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Team/Class	Google Classroom Code
Lightning Orchestra	rjgot7g
North Star Orchestra	w4vxicl
Riptide Orchestra	hhqjelu
Lightning Band	3iehmaz
Avalanche Band	qifprtt
North Star Band	ibziy3v
Cyclone Band	ek7eckp
Eclipse Band	lxhqjh7
Riptide Band	72mhmvgg

## REMIND

Grade/Class	Remind Code
6th grade Orchestra	Text @coleorch6 to the number 81010
7th Grade Orchestra	Text @coleorch7 to the number 81010
8th Grade Orchestra	Text @coleorch8 to the number 81010
6th Grade Band	Text @coleband6 to the number 81010
7th Grade Band	Text @coleband7 to the number 81010
8th Grade Band	Text @coleband8 to the number 81010

*If anyone has trouble with 81010, try texting your above code, "@cole.." to (401) 262-0555*

# 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 click on the appropriate Google Form link below to fill out an acknowledgement form NO LATER than **Friday, September 16th**. This just lets us know that you have read and agreed to our Music Department policies.

[Levesque's Acknowledgement Link](#)

[Catelli's Acknowledgement Link](#)