

EWG Junior High Band 2015-2016

Mr. Gregg Charest, Director


Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome, and welcome back to the Junior High Band program's 2015-2016 school year! I expect bigger and better things for our program this year, which improves continually as a result of our communities' dedication to music.

Do you know our website address? Visit <http://www.ewgbands.com> for the latest information regarding our wonderful program. If you haven't done so already, please visit the website, and fill out our contact information form.

Please take the time to review the music department handbook, which details my expectations of the students. Of course, if you have any questions or concerns at all, please email, or call me at school: (401) 397-6898 Ext. 239 or Gregg_Charest@ewg.k12.ri.us.

Have a great year!



Mr. Charest

I. Calendar of events

Please visit: www.ewgbands.com for the most up to date information regarding the band calendar. You may subscribe to our google calendar, or download a printable version from the website.

II. Concert Reporting Time

Reporting time for each concert/performance is posted in the BAND WEBSITE. Since the concert is the culmination of each trimester (more or less), each concert will count as a major grade. Tardiness, absence, misbehavior, etc. can diminish this grade. Please see the absence policy, under **Expectations of students**.

III. Expectations of Students

Concert Dress Code: All students are expected to maintain a uniform appearance while performing at school and away at festivals.

BOYS: A white button down collared shirt, neck or bow tie, black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes that are NOT SNEAKERS.

GIRLS: White top that tucks into pants and is consistent with school dress code (ie. no bare midriff, spaghetti straps, nothing sleeveless), Black bottom (Skirts below the knee please – remember, these girls are going to be on stage!) Pants are acceptable (even preferred), black nylons/socks, and black shoes that are NOT SNEAKERS. **ANY STUDENT THAT IS NOT DRESSED IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PERFORMANCE.** If there are concerns, financial or otherwise, please contact Mr. Charest.

III. Expectations continued

Absence/Missed Performances: Please note that there are very few acceptable reasons for missing a performance. Parents and students should make these days an **extremely high priority**, since these dates are considered a **MAJOR** portion of your student's grade, and any absence will certainly be reflected in their grade. Acceptable reasons for missing a concert are similar to those that are acceptable for missing a school day (student illness, death in the family). **ANY OTHER REASON FOR MISSING A PERFORMANCE IS CONSIDERED UNACCEPTABLE, AND THE STUDENT WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE FOR THE PERFORMANCE.** Should a student meet the criterion for a missed concert, there will be no harm to that student's grade, assuming they complete a makeup assignment that Mr. Charest will assign.

If you know in advance that your student must miss a concert, Mr. Charest would appreciate an email, or note from home no less than 1 week in advance of the event. **(This does not, however, excuse the student – it simply allows Mr. Charest to make arrangements to cover missing parts in the performance).** Mr. Charest treats these situations on a case by case basis – please be courteous and tell him in advance. Thanks!

IV. Equipment

Because of the expense involved in providing these supplies, **students are asked to provide their own reeds, slide creams, valve oils, and sticks.** Percussionists are encouraged to purchase a Vic Firth educational Pack through Rick's musical instruments in Cumberland, RI, or Robert's Music in Warwick. Mr. Charest has listed all the recommended items on the band website.

V. Private Lessons

Private lessons are **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** for all music students, especially those who wish to try out for All-State, or Solo and Ensemble festivals. Private lessons are a fantastic way for any student to learn more about their instrument, and they can only get better at something they already love.

We have teachers that come to EWG after school, and have listed these excellent teachers on our website: <http://www.ewgbands.com>. Please consider lessons for your student.

VI. All State, and Solo and Ensemble

"All State", and "Solo and Ensemble" are festivals that are available to any student who is interested. Announcements will be made in class, and through the music website with further details. I **strongly** recommend that students be taking private lessons in order to audition for All-State or Solo and Ensemble.

Questions/Comments: Please contact Mr. Charest at (401) 397-6898 Ext. 239, or (even preferred) by email: Gregg_Charest@ewg.k12.ri.us

First assignment:

Go to <http://www.EWGBands.com>,
and submit your current contact information.

PS – consider "liking" our band on facebook, or following
[@MrCharest](#) on twitter!