



proudly presents

The
***NJSMA Region I Middle School
Concert Band Festival
Tuesday, April 8, 2025***

West Essex High School
65 Greenbrook Rd
Caldwell, NJ 07006

**Mr. Clifford Bialkin and Ms. Laurie Kunzle,
Adjudicator-Clinicians**

Today's festival will be adjudicated using the The National Band Association Guidelines and rubric:

The National Band Association Guidelines:

Tone – 20 points

Intonation – 15 points

Ensemble Technique – 15 points

Interpretation – 20 points

Balance – 20 points

Literature – 10 points

TOTAL POINTS – 100

Gold Rating - 88 to 100 points

Silver Rating - 75 to 87.9 points

Bronze Rating - 50 to 74.9 points

Program

Harrington Park Wind Ensemble —Mr. Ryan Ward, Director

Selection #1: Reflections - Cait Nishimura
Murphy Music Press

Selection #2: The Great Academy - Josh Idio
Joshua Idio

Mt. Olive Middle School Junior Winds —Ms. Jacqueline Burkat, Director

Selection #1: Down by the Salley Gardens - arr. Michael Sweeney
Hal Leonard

Selection #2: Troika from “Lt. Kije Suite” - Sergei Prokofiev, arr. Scott Watson
Alfred Music Publishing

Macopin Middle School 8th Grade Band —Ms. Erica McPartland, Director

Selection #1: Flight of the Thunderbird - Richard Saucedo
Hal Leonard

Selection #2: Portrait of a Clown - Frank Tichelli
Manhattan Beach Music

Englewood Upper School Concert Band —Mr. Jason Wysocki, Director

Selection #1: By Dawn’s Early Light - David Shaffer
C L Barnhouse Company

Selection #2: Carpathia - William Owens
FJH Music Company

Tenaflly Middle School 7th Grade Band —Dr. Kimberly Burja, Director

Selection #1: March of the Arachnids - Randall D. Standridge

Randall Standridge Music

Selection #2: Swahili Folk Hymn - arr. Kevin Mixon

Alfred Publishing Belwin Division

Cresskill Middle School —Mr. Joseph Verderese, Director

Selection #1: Semper Fidelis - John Philip Sousa, arr. Paul Lavendar

Hal Leonard

Selection #2: In a New Light - Chris Bernatos

Carl Fisher LLC

Roy W. Brown Middle School 8th Grade Band —Mr. Xavier A. Bonilla, Director

Selection #1: Fragile - Randall D. Standridge

Randall Standridge Music

Selection #2: Red Giant - Jorge L. Vargas

Alfred Music Publishing

West Essex Middle School Concert Band —Ms. Crystal Yoon, Director

Selection #1: Anomaly - Tyler Arcari

Excelcia Music Publishing

Selection #2: As Days Go By - James Swearingen

C L Barnhouse Company

The Adjudicator-Clinicians

Mr. Clifford Bialkin

Mr. Bialkin retired after celebrating his 32nd year as the Director of Bands at Ramsey High School in Ramsey, New Jersey. His responsibilities included directing the award-winning Ramsey High School Jazz Ensemble, the “Big Blue” Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, and Pit Orchestra, as well as supervising and working with all competing groups in the department including the Winter Guard and Percussion Ensemble. He arranged and collaborated on music performed by all the bands and ensembles on a regular basis. Under his leadership the groups routinely received top honors in competitions and performances both domestically and internationally. The RHS Jazz Ensemble had been a consistent finalist at IAJE (International Association of Jazz Educators) festivals, as well as many contests and festivals throughout the Tri-State area. Under his direction, the Ramsey High School Wind Ensemble garnered many superior and gold ratings at state, domestic, and international festivals. In 2019, Mr. Bialkin conducted the Music Educators of Bergen County Incorporated (MEBCI) Honors Band. In 2010, Mr. Bialkin was selected to be the guest conductor of the Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) Western Division Jazz Ensemble. In 2003, the Ramsey Jazz Ensemble was selected to be a guest of the Japanese government and the sole representative of the United States at the “All Japan Cultural Arts Festival” held in Fukui, Japan. During his tenure at Ramsey, the Marching Band and Jazz Ensembles traveled to London England, Paris France, and Rome Italy to participate in the New Year’s Day Parades and festivals.

Mr. Bialkin is the owner of Clifford Bialkin Designs LLC which creates marching arts productions for ensembles throughout the United States. Mr. Bialkin is a consultant for Youth Music of The World and often serves as a clinician/judge for bands in and around the New York metropolitan area, as well as internationally. He is also a member of the Conn Selmer VIP program. Currently Mr. Bialkin is the Co-Brass Arranger for the world famous Hawthorne Caballeros. He has been actively teaching in the drum corps world since 1996. In 2003 he joined the staff at Hawthorne Caballeros for their championship run. Since then, he has been teaching, designing, programming, coordinating and consulting multiple all ages, and junior drum and bugle corps. Mr. Bialkin has a full private studio of low brass players, and is a freelance trombonist in the NY/NJ Metropolitan area.

Ms. Laurie Kunzle

Laurie J. Kunzle is a composer, performer, and educator. An instrumental music teacher in New Jersey for over 34 years and the former Director of Bands at Lakeland Regional High School for 25 years. She studied at West Chester University, B.S in Music Education, Temple University as a graduate assistant with the bands, and Montclair University, Masters in Music Theory Composition. Kunzle composes works for instrumental ensembles and arranges for the marching arts. Her compositions have been played by the Ridgewood Concert Band/New Jersey Wind Symphony, Hanover Wind Symphony, Dallas Winds brass, and many school ensembles and honors bands. A winner in the Dallas Winds fanfare contest and she has received several commissions for instrumental ensemble works. She has been involved in the Marching Arts, teaching, writing, performing, and adjudicating over the past four decades for marching bands and drum corps.

A clarinetist and conductor, Kunzle performs with Plainfield Symphony, NJ Wind Symphony, Summit Symphony and is a freelance musician. She has recently performed at the Count Basie Theatre, Playhouse22, The Cathedral Basilica, and with the Band Directors Marching Band in the Macy's Parade 2023 and Rose Parade 2022. She has conducted over 30 musicals and has guest conducted with the NJWS, Hanover Wind Symphony, American Music Abroad, and school ensembles. In 2024, Kunzle had the honor of working with several honors ensembles, conducting the Rockland, NY Jr. All-County Band, NJ Region 1 Symphonic Winds Intermediate Band, NJWS Side-By-Side, and the Sussex All-County HS band.

Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

A huge thank you to West Essex Middle School, their director, Crystal Yoon, as well as all the administrators and custodial staff at West Essex Middle School for allowing us to use this space and help make the event run.

Thank you to Region Band Co-Chairs as well as the NJSMA Region Board for providing the support to allow events like this to happen.

A very special thank you to our adjudicators, Mr. Clifford Bialkin and Ms. Laurie Kunzle, for providing their expertise and words of wisdom to help young musicians grow and achieve their highest potential.