



proudly presents

The
***NJSMA Region I Middle School
Concert Band Festival
Tuesday, April 14, 2026***

West Essex High School
65 Greenbrook Rd
Caldwell, NJ 07006

**Mr. Matthew Paterno 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

West Essex Middle School Concert Band — Ms. Crystal Yoon

Of Lochs and Thistles - Christina Huss

Randall Standridge Music, LLC

Infinite Possibilities - Randall Standridge

Randall Standridge Music, LLC

Cresskill 7th and 8th Grade Band — Mr. Joseph J. Verderese, Jr. and Mr. Jeison Campoverde

Amparito Roca - Jaime Texidor, arr. Gary Fagan

Boosey & Hawks, Distributed by Hal Lenoard

Cyclone - Michael Oare (ASCAP)

Hal Leonard

Roy W. Brown Middle School 8th Grade Concert Band — Ms. Michelle Harmeyer

Choose Joy - Randall Standridge

Randall Standridge Music, LLC

Women of the Podium - Virginia Allen

TRN Music Pub. Co.

Brookside School Senior Band — Ms. Collette Mather

Horkstow Grange - Percy Graniger, arr. Michael Sweeney

Hal Leonard Corporation

Odysseus and the Sirens - Dana Wilson

Hal Leonard Corporation

Ramapo Ridge Spirit Band — Mr. Giuseppe Fusco

The Past is Always Present - Season O'Loughlin

Carl Fisher LLC

Byzantine Dances - Carol Brittin Chambers

Excelcia Music Publishing, LLC

Macopin Middle School 8th Grade Band —Ms. Erica McPartland and Mr. Anthony Paterno

Choreography - Robert Sheldon

Alfred Music Publishing

Blue Ridge Reel - Brian Balmages

FJH Music Company Inc

Belleville Middle School Concert Band —Mr. Thomas Ubriaco III

Song for Winds - John Edmondson

Queenwood Publications

Tall Cedars Concert March - Eric Osterling

Carl Fisher LLC

Englewood Cliffs Upper School Wind Ensemble —Mr. Jason Wysocki

The Great Locomotive Chase - Robert W. Smith

Alfred Music Publishing

My Shot from “Hamilton” - Lin-Manuel Miranda, arr. Michael Brown

Hal Leonard Corporation

Tenafly Middle School 7th Grade Band — Dr. Kimberly Burja

Before the Dawn - Liliana Alarcon, arr. Timothy Loest

MakeMusic Publications

The Great Green Kazoo - Carol Brittin Chambers

Excelcia Music Publishing, LLC

Mount Olive Middle School Junior Winds — Ms. Jaqueline Burkat

Colliding Visions - Brian Balmages

FJH Music Company

Bamboo Warrior - Christina Huss

Excelcia Music Publishing, LLC

Grover Cleveland Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Band — Ms. Lauren Chen

March of the Hobgoblins - Randall Standridge

Randall Standridge Music, LLC

Patriotic Snippets - arr. Robert Sheldon

Alfred Music Publishing

The Adjudicator-Clinicians

Mr. Matthew J. Paterno

Matthew J. Paterno received his Bachelor of Music degree from Rutgers University-Mason Gross School of Arts in 1989. He studied conducting there with Scott Whitener and euphonium with Harold Janks of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. In 2014, He earned his Master of Science in Educational Administration from the University of Scranton.

Mr. Paterno is the current music director of the Hanover Wind Symphony based in Northern New Jersey. In this position, he has commissioned many new works for wind band and hosted world class soloists such as Stanley Drucker, Steven Mead and Michael Baker. The Hanover Wind Symphony performs 5-6 concerts a year with repertoire drawing from major band works, new music for wind ensemble, patriotic selections and holiday favorites.

Mr. Paterno recently retired from public education after 36 years of service. He began his teaching career as the fourth grade Music Teacher and High School Band Director for the Keansburg Public Schools and spent the last 35 years as The Director of Bands and Instrumental Music at Wayne Hills High School. He continues to teach as an adjunct faculty member at William Paterson University where he instructs classes in Brass Methods, Understanding Music, Ear Training and Applied Euphonium. In addition, Mr. Paterno serves as a mentor for student teacher candidates. He also founded, organized and was the lead instructor for the Wayne Sounds of Summer music camp for 11 years.

Throughout his career, bands under Mr. Paterno's baton have consistently received excellent and superior ratings in contests and festivals. He has had the distinction of having the Wayne Hills Wind Ensemble chosen to perform in Avery Fisher Hall in New York! He has also conducted several honors bands, including the following: North Jersey Area Symphonic Band, NJ Region I Junior High Jazz Band, NJ Region I Brass Ensemble, Atlantic/Cape May Honors Band and The CJMEA Junior High Symphonic Band. Mr. Paterno was also the creator and coordinator of the NJMEA State Marching Band Festival and served for ten years as the chairman of the NJMEA State Conference Marching Band Academy.

Mr. Paterno is listed in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* and is a two-time recipient of the *Governor's Teacher of the Year Award* for Wayne Township. He was awarded the Eastern Marching Band Association's *Director of the Year* award and was honored by *School Band and Orchestra* as the New Jersey representative of their "50 Directors Who Make a Difference" list. He is also the proud recipient of the North Jersey Music Associations "Service Award." Mr. Paterno is in demand as a clinician and brass teacher, as well as an adjudicator with the National Judges Association.

Ms. Laurie J. Kunzle

Laurie J. Kunzle is a composer, musician, 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 both music education and music theory composition at West Chester University, Temple University and Montclair University.

Kunzle composes works for concert bands and all instrumental ensembles and arranges for the marching arts. Her compositions have been played by the Ridgewood Concert Band, the Hanover Wind Symphony, the Dallas Wind Symphony brass, and the NJ Region 1 Band. A winner in the Dallas Wind Symphony fanfare contest and has received commissions for several instrumental ensemble works.

A clarinetist and conductor, Kunzle performs with the New Jersey Wind Symphony, the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra, and is a freelance musician. She has also been involved in the Marching Arts teaching, writing, performing, and adjudicating over the past three decades for marching bands and drum and bugle corps. A member of the Band Directors Marching Band, Kunzle has recently marched in the 2022 Rose Parade in California and the 2023 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York. In 2024, Kunzle will be conducting the Rockland Jr. All-County Band and the American Music Abroad Community Band Touring Europe this summer.

Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

A huge thank you to West Essex High School, their music faculty, as well as all the administrators and custodial staff at West Essex 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. Paterno and Ms. Kunzle, for providing their expertise and words of wisdom to help young musicians grow and achieve their highest potential.