

**EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CHOIR/ORCHESTRA  
2020-2021**



**STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**Mrs. Raisha Quinn – Director**

Welcome to East Middle School Choir and Orchestra! My name is Mrs. Raisha Quinn. This will be my 29th year teaching music. I taught 3 years in Wyoming, 10 years in Idaho Springs, CO and I am beginning my 16th year here at EMS. I hold a Bachelor's degree in music education K-12 and a Master's degree in music education with a minor in music history and an emphasis in choral conducting. I am looking forward to another exciting and educational year here at East Middle School.

I have designed this handbook so that both students and parents know what to expect during the upcoming year. **Please read the handbook carefully than sign and return the last page to me by Friday, August 21, 2020. This is your first learning behavior grade assignment for the year!** Keep the rest of this handbook for future reference.

In the following pages, you will find information in reference to: class expectations, concert dates, concert dress, music care, class syllabus, advanced tasks, private lessons and scholarships.

## CLASS EXPECTATIONS (SRR)

**\*\*NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED IN CHOIR/ORCHESTRA ROOM!!!!!!!**

1. ETIQUETTE IS AN ABSOLUTE MUST IN THE CHOIR/ORCHESTRA ROOM.
2. BE ON TIME!!! WATER ALLOWED ONLY!  
ABSOLUTELY NO GUM!
3. KEEP A PENCIL IN YOUR FOLDER.
4. ALL CHOIR MUSIC WILL BE MEMORIZED.
5. ALL ORCHESTRA MUSIC MUST BE PRACTICED OUTSIDE OF CLASS AS WELL AS IN CLASS.
6. RESTROOM USAGE DURING PASSING PERIOD.

## CONCERT DATES

**\*\*ALL CONCERTS WILL TAKE PLACE ON-LINE PRE-RECORDED!**

~~September 2: Middle School Honor Orchestra Auditions @ GMMS~~

~~September 30: Colorado Middle School All State Choir Auditions, EMS~~

**October 6: 6-8 Fall Choir/Orchestra Concert, 6:30pm ON-LINE**

~~October 7: 7-8 Choir Combined Concert, 7pm, GJHS Auditorium~~

**November 2: Music Parent Meeting, 6:30pm ON-LINE**

~~November 2: Mesa Valley 7th-8th Grade Honor Choir Festival Auditions, EMS~~

~~November 19: Middle School Honor Orchestra, PHS, 7:00pm~~

**December 7: Music Parent Meeting, 6:30pm ON-LINE**

**December 16: 6-8 Winter Choir/Orchestra Concert, 6:30pm ON-LINE**

~~December 18: Elementary School Tour~~

**January 11: Music Parent Meeting, 6:30pm ON-LINE**

**January 16: Rock-A-Thon, 9:00am-5:00pm ON-LINE YEAR LONG**

~~January 21: Mesa Valley 7th-8th Grade Honor Choir Festival, All Day, FMS, Concert, 7:00pm~~

**January 27-30: Colorado Music Educators Conference TBD**

**February 19-20: Solo and Small Ensemble Festival, Grand Mesa Middle School TBD**

~~March 4-5: Colorado Middle School All State Choir, Denver~~

**April 15: Colorado West Festival Choir/Orchestra Concert, 6:30pm ON-LINE**

**April 2: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir and Orchestra Perform, EMS Gym TBD**

**April 21-24: Colorado West Festival, TBD**

~~April 27: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade String Clinic @ GJHS, All Day, 7:00pm Concert~~

**May 12: End of Year Choir/Orchestra Concert, 6:30pm ON-LINE**

\*Additional performances may be added throughout the year.

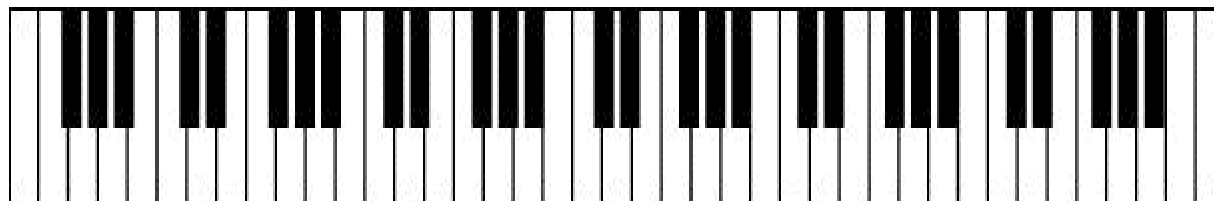
## CONCERT DRESS

Performance attire:

Ladies are to wear dresses or skirts, blouses and dress shoes. Gentlemen are to wear dress shirts, ties, slacks and dress shoes. **ALL TOPS NEED TO BE WHITE WITH SLEEVES COVERING THE SHOULDERS AND ALL BOTTOMS NEED TO BE BLACK INCLUDING CLOSE-TOED SHOES.** Apparel must be neat and clean. **NO JEANS, SWEATS, T-SHIRTS, FLIP-FLOPS OR SHORTS WILL BE ALLOWED ON STAGE UNLESS IT IS PART OF THE PERFORMANCE AS DESIGNATED BY MRS. QUINN.** All concert attire **MUST** meet school dress code requirements and be approved by Mrs. Quinn.

## MUSIC CARE

A replacement fee will be assessed to any student who turns in excessively damaged/non-reusable music or fails to return assigned music. Orchestra music can reach replacement costs of \$55/song.



East Middle School Choir Syllabus  
2020-2021  
Mrs. Raisha Quinn

**\*\*Students will be assigned a face shield that will be disinfected daily. Each student MUST wear their mask AND the face shield in order to sing. Students will be assigned their own music and folder they will need to bring to class daily.**

## **GRADING**

The following items will be the basis for grades in choir:

\*Weekly Progress Reports(LB)

\*Worksheets(Summative)

**\*\*\*A 2-pocket folder will be assigned for these worksheets. These folders will be kept in the —choir room.**

\*Composer Units(Summative)

\*Singing Assessments(Formative/Summative)

\*Concerts(Summative)

**\*\*\*If a student is absent from a performance for any reason, the student must write a paragraph discussing their absence AND perform the concert material for Mrs. Quinn within one week after the performance or the last day of the grading period, whichever comes first, in order to receive credit.**

LB=Learning Behavior

**\*\*Students may reassess summative assessments a minimum of 24 hours after the initial assessment, but within the current quarter.**

## **TARDIES**

\*Students will receive a lunch detention for every (3rd) tardy.

## **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (SEE CALENDAR FOR ADJUSTMENTS)**

\*Music Parent Meetings

\*Field Trips

\*Colorado Middle School All State Choir (7-8 Grades)

\*7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade District Honor Choir Festival

\*Solo/Small Ensemble Festival (6-8 Grades)

\*Colorado West Music Invitational (Large Group Festival)

\*Fundraiser – The Rock-A-Thon. Every choir member’s participation is encouraged; however, it is **required** for scholarship recipients. All money raised remains in the EMS choir department fund.

East Middle School Orchestra Syllabus  
2020-2021  
Mrs. Raisha Quinn

## **GRADING**

The following items will be the basis for grades in orchestra:

\*Weekly Progress Reports(LB)

\*Theory Assignments(Summative)

\*Playing Assessments(Formative/Summative)

\*Practicing is essential in order to complete these tests well. Practice time cards are NOT required, however, these playing tests WILL demonstrate your practice time outside of class and in class.

\*Concerts(Summative)

\*\*\*If a student is absent from a performance **for any reason**, the student must write a paragraph discussing their absence AND perform the concert material for Mrs. Quinn within **one week** after the performance or **the last day of the grading period**, whichever comes first, in order to receive credit.

LB=Learning Behavior

\*\*Students may reassess summative assessments a minimum of 24 hours after the initial assessment, but within the current quarter.

## **MATERIALS**

Level 1: Sound Innovations for String Orchestra Book 1 **FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT!**

**\*\*Purchase from Mrs. Quinn - \$10**

Shoulder Rest – Violin and Viola ONLY

Rosin – Bass and Cello ONLY

Level 2: Sound Innovations for String Orchestra Book 2

**\*\*Purchase from Mrs. Quinn - \$10**

Shoulder Rest – Violin and Viola ONLY

Rosin – Bass and Cello ONLY

Level 3: Sound Innovations for Intermediate String Orchestra

**\*\*Purchase from Mrs. Quinn - \$10**

Shoulder Rest/Rosin – See above

**\*The above materials (BOOKS ARE PURCHASED FROM MRS. QUINN) and must be brought to class EVERY DAY along with: instruments, music folders, pencils, paper and planners. These items are part of the learning behavior grade. INSTRUMENTS WILL NOT BE SHARED!**

## **ESSENTIALS**

- \*Tuning begins when the bell rings or you are tardy.
- \*Instruments are stored appropriately in music lockers or the music closet (Cello/Bass).
- \*\*Students will be assigned their own stand to be used daily along with their own folder with music/purchased books.**
- \*Fingernails need to be trimmed short. The length may not exceed the fingertips as fingertip pads must be able to press the strings to the fingerboard (hammer) and pizzicato. When holding hands with palms facing the students, nails should not be seen over the fingertips.**

## **INSTRUMENTS**

Each student will need their OWN individual instrument for practice at school and at home. We recommend students “Rent to Own” instruments, however, some instruments are available through the school to “Rent to Rent”. If a student is in between sizes of instruments, **please get the smaller instrument until the student grows.** Usually, cellists and bassists can use school instruments at school and their individual instruments at home as to avoid transporting them. **Bass and Cello players need to purchase their own bows. SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS RENT FOR \$75/YEAR (BASSES ARE \$80) AND WILL BE DISTRIBUTED DURING CLASS TIME. INSTRUMENTS RENTED THROUGH THE SCHOOL MAY NOT GO HOME FOR PRACTICE UNTIL THE RENTAL CONTRACT HAS BEEN SIGNED AND RETURNED TO MRS. QUINN AND THE RENTAL FEE HAS BEEN PAID. OUR RENTAL INSTRUMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT ARE LABELED WITH AN INVENTORY TAG. IF THE TAG IS REMOVED, THERE IS A \$10 REPLACEMENT COST CHARGED TO THE STUDENT.**

- \*Personal instruments need to be labeled with a nametag on the case including name and phone number. It is recommended that parents keep a copy of the serial number of the instrument at home.**

## **INSTRUMENT CARE**

Students are responsible for the care of their own instrument. This information is covered in class and reminders are given frequently. Please contact the director if you have questions. Strings can be replaced by the student after instruction from the director and a demonstration; however, more serious repairs will need to be completed at a music store. Strings are available at school for a fee dependent on the instrument and string. The current price for strings purchased from Mrs. Quinn for all instruments is \$7 each.

## **TARDIES**

- \*Students will receive a lunch detention for every (3rd) tardy.

## **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (SEE CALENDAR FOR ADJUSTMENTS)**

- \*Music Parent Meetings
- \*Field Trips
- \*7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> District Honor Orchestra
- \*6<sup>th</sup> Grade String Clinic
- \*Solo/Small Ensemble Festival (6-8 Grades)
- \*Colorado West Music Invitational (Large Group Festival)
- \*Fundraiser – The Rock-A-Thon. Every orchestra member’s participation is encouraged; however, it is **required** for scholarship recipients. All money raised remains in the EMS orchestra department fund.

## **ADVANCED TASKS (SEE WPR ASSIGNMENTS)**

Advanced tasks are part of the weekly learning behavior grade and may be obtained in the following manner:

1. Attendance at other EMS concerts.\*
2. Attendance at **any** middle school choir/orchestra concert other than EMS.\*
3. Attendance at a community concert.\*
4. A performance by you at a community or church event.\*
5. A composition written and performed by you.\*
6. A written report on a subject assigned by Mrs. Quinn.
7. Attendance by your parent at a music parent meeting.
8. Participation in the Rock-A-Thon (Actual Rocking).
9. Participation in solo and small ensemble festival.

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

Studying with a private teacher who works on vocal/string technique is a great way to supplement what you learn in school. It is highly recommended that each student take private lessons. You and the choir/orchestra program will be greatly enhanced and will improve dramatically. See Mrs. Quinn for more information.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships are made available in the spring to students to further their music education (i.e. private lessons, music camp, purchase of instruments, supplies). In order to receive a scholarship, students must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Participate in Choir/Orchestra for the entire year.
2. Attend all concerts.
3. Participate in the Rock-A-Thon.
4. Participate in the solo/small ensemble festival.
5. Register for a Choir/Orchestra music class at EMS or District #51 High School.
6. Complete the application form in the spring.

Let's have a great year!

Mrs. Raisha Quinn

Director of Choirs/Orchestras

East Middle School 254-5020 ext. 33228

**PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE ONLY TO MRS. QUINN**

**\*\*Email Mrs. Quinn to confirm understanding and receipt of this handbook:**

[raisha.quinn@d51schools.org](mailto:raisha.quinn@d51schools.org)

As a student and member of the East Middle School Choir/Orchestra Department, I have read this handbook and understand the requirements. I will assume the obligations and responsibilities and agree to follow the principles, rules and procedures.

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

\_\_\_\_NA\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

As a parent/guardian of this student, I understand the obligations and responsibilities my child is expected to follow. I have taken note of the concert schedule and the black and white concert attire necessary for each performance. My child has permission to travel with the East Middle School Choir/Orchestra to perform in: community events, other District #51 schools and functions (you will be given advance notice of these with individual permission slips).

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

\_\_\_\_NA\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(Parents) I can volunteer for the following: **(If we have them!)**

\_\_\_\_ Chaperoning Field Trips

\_\_\_\_ Chaperoning the Rock-a-Thon (Specific shifts will be available!)

\_\_\_\_ Calling on prizes for the Rock-a-Thon/Picking up Prizes (Mrs. Quinn has a business list.)

\_\_\_\_ Volunteering in the choir or orchestra classroom; Days \_\_\_\_\_ Times \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Chaperoning students before/during concerts **(All concerts will be held in the EMS Gym!)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please email your confirmation of this information to Mrs. Quinn, [raisha.quinn@d51schools.org](mailto:raisha.quinn@d51schools.org) by Friday, August 21, 2020 to complete the first learning behavior grade assignment of the year.