

# CORTEZ MIDDLE SCHOOL



# HANDBOOK

## 2017-2018

Cortez Middle School

Kate Ott, Principal

Andrew Campo & Alex Mohr, Directors

# Band Handbook 2017-2018

Greetings to all band students and parents, and welcome to the 2017-2018 school year!

It is of great importance that students and parents become familiar with the guidelines and expectations of the Cortez Middle School Band. Please take the time to read this handbook, sign and return the back page as soon as possible. Feel free to contact us with any questions at 565-7824 ext. 3150.

Thank you for your support in making music a positive and rewarding experience at Cortez Middle School!

## Meet the Teachers:

### Andrew Campo

*Andrew Campo grew up in Hampden, Maine. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education at the University of Maine and a Master's Degree from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. In 2006, Mr. Campo earned his National Board Teaching Certification, which has been achieved by less than 3% of the teachers in the United States. In 1997, Mr. Campo began teaching at Miami Southridge Senior High School in Miami Florida, where he taught marching band, jazz band, three concert bands, and piano for five years. He then taught for six years at Palm Springs Middle School of Choice For The Arts where he was band director and music department head.*

*Bands under Mr. Campo's direction have performed in concert with Latin Grammy Award winner Nestor Torres and the world famous Dallas Brass. They have worked with Grammy Award winner Eddie "Guagua" Rivera and Latin Grammy Award nominee Edwin Bonilla. They have played on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and performed on national television. Some of his students have signed recording contracts with major music labels and one has been nominated for a Latin Grammy Award. Some of his students appeared in the movie Drumline. Mr. Campo has worked at Cortez Middle School since 2008. He currently serves as the Electives Team Leader at CMS. Mr. Campo also serves as President of the Children's Kiva Montessori School Board of Directors (Children's House) and on the SouthWest Colorado Concerts Board of Directors as the School Programs Chair. He lives in Cortez with his wife and Cortez native Kelly, their son TJ and daughter Grace.*

### Alex Mohr

*Mr. Mohr graduated from Wright State University in Dayton, OH in 2012 with a degree in Music Education. During his time there, he was active with many ensembles, including the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, Saxophone Quartet, and the Raider Pep band, and was the Vice President of Membership for WSU's colony of the Kappa Kappa Psi Honorary Band Fraternity. While studying saxophone with Dr. Shelley Jagow, he participated in master classes featuring Jean-Marie Londeix, Dr. William Street, Dr. David Nabb, and the Amstel Quartet of Amsterdam. As a member the Saxophone Quartet, Mr. Mohr performed at North American Saxophone Alliance (NASA) conferences in Columbia, SC and Chicago, IL, the Ohio Music Education Association*

*(OMEA) Annual Conference in Columbus, OH, and the 2012 World Saxophone Congress in St. Andrews, Scotland. In addition, he was an active performer and occasional conductor with the WSU Men's Chorale, and served as student conductor and music arranger for the Raider Pep Band.*

*Outside of his educational commitments, Mr. Mohr taught with the Bands of America National Semi-finalist Northmont High School Marching Band, where he served as a visual, woodwind, and tuba instructor, before taking a position as Visual Caption Head his final year. He was also a member of the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps during the summer of 2009 and 2010, performing in the tuba section. Prior to coming to Cortez to begin his professional teaching career, Mr. Mohr served in the United States Air Force for four years as an Avionics Technician. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Emily, and they have two sons, Sullivan and Elijah.*

### **I. Philosophy:**

The Cortez Middle School Band program seeks to promote a positive learning experience in instrumental music. The following points will be highlighted in each student's development:

- 1) To foster a positive attitude toward music and musical performance as both a performer and listener.
- 2) To develop a greater sense of responsibility and self-discipline through the practice of music as an individual and a team member.
- 3) To increase musical skills, knowledge and sensitivity through the playing of a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument.
- 4) To instill Life Skill Values of dedication, cooperation, fellowship and achievement throughout the program.

### **II. Classroom Procedures:**

- 1) Every student is expected to be in the band room on time.
- 2) Within three minutes thereafter, each student should be SEATED and prepared to begin with instrument, all music and a PENCIL daily. Students will be expected to supply extra reeds and valve/key oil as instructed.
- 3) There is no food, drink, gum or candy allowed in the band room.
- 4) When the director steps on the podium, silence will begin and students will listen for further instructions. Students should always raise a hand to be recognized.
- 5) When playing is "cut off" by the director, students will listen to the directions and not talk.
- 6) Students will remain seated during rehearsals.
- 7) Instruments should remain in a ready position while director is behind the podium stand.
- 8) Instruments and music must always be put away properly.

### **III. Grading:**

Each student's grade will consist of four parts:

- 1) Testing – Any musical knowledge or playing skill may be an in-class test. Tests may be playing, written or oral.
- 2) Performance – Students are **required** to participate in **all** performances. Proper Participation is full credit. In the event of emergency or extreme illness, the director must be notified immediately, and excuse must be submitted **IN WRITING** in order to be considered. Verbal notification alone is insufficient. \*We ask that parents please not use any performance as a means of disciplinary action. Withholding a student's participation will jeopardize **EVERY** other student in the ensemble.
- 3) Participation – Each day the student contributes properly to the ensemble, he/she receives full credit for that day. In the event a student does not participate, his/her weekly grade will be lowered by one letter grade.
- 4) Practice – **PRACTICE IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ANY STUDENT'S DEVELOPMENT!** Students using large instruments are encouraged to practice at school, before school hours. If prolonged illness occurs, excuses must be documented **IN WRITING**.

Students should practice every night if possible, but **STUDENTS MUST TAKE THEIR INSTRUMENTS HOME EVERY WEEKEND TO PRACTICE!**

#### **IV. Equipment Management:**

- 1) Individuals will be held responsible for the music and folders assigned to them.
- 2) Individuals must pay for the damaged or lost music they have been assigned. Markings on music must always be in **PENCIL**.
- 3) Folders, books and instruments must be put away in their appropriate places at the end of each class period.
- 4) All instruments should stored in a band locker. Unauthorized contact with any instrument or locker not assigned to that student will be **DEALT WITH AS THEFT or VANDALISM**.
- 5) All students are responsible for acquiring an instrument. Flutes, clarinets, alto saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and snare drums are available for rent through a number of local music stores. Some school-owned instruments are available for rent for \$40.00 on a first come, first served basis.

#### **V. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band**

6<sup>th</sup> grade band students are responsible for acquiring instruments from a music store or through Cortez Middle School (see above for details). Beginning band students are also responsible for purchasing the beginning band book from a music store. The book is entitled: Tradition of Excellence by Bruce Pearson. The book cover is red and is available locally at Rocky Mountain One Stop.

## **VI. Fund Raising:**

Every year, band students participate in one fundraiser. Any music program that provides a positive experience needs funds. These funds are used for equipment repair, music, transportation and other needs not fully furnished. EVERY student is expected to participate. Fundraising will NOT be scheduled to exceed needs.

## **VII. Costs:**

Band students have the following financial obligations to meet:

- 1) Band members must own a band shirt, purchased from the directors. The cost is \$20.00 per shirt. Each student will provide their own black dress pants, black shoes and black socks to be worn at concerts. Students must also provide their own reeds, valve oil or other necessary supplies.
- 2) Instrumental Rental: Students using SCHOOL OWNED instruments will be charged \$40.00 for the school year. This covers normal maintenance and repair. (Annual costs for store rented instruments exceed this amount) Damage to school owned instruments due to neglect, abuse or attempted repair will be assessed to the student. Damage beyond normal wear and tear will be determined by the district. Parents will be responsible for the cost of instrument replacement due to loss or theft.
- 3) Beginning band students must purchase a red book for class.

## **VIII. Performance Dress / Uniform:**

All students in band will be required to have a CMS Band Shirt. We will use this shirt for several different parade and concert functions. Additionally, each student will be responsible for acquiring black dress pants, black socks, and black shoes (all-black sneakers or dress shoes will do nicely). If a student is not dressed in the proper uniform, the directors reserve the right to exclude that student from that performance.

## **IX. Honor Bands and Band Festivals:**

- 1) **Fort Lewis Honor Band (8th Grade):** Each year in February, Fort Lewis College hosts a Middle School / High School Honor Band. 8th Grade Band Students will be selected to participate in this honor band based upon the individual performance and improvement of the student. This honor band takes place in February. Make your best effort in and out of class and you could possibly be selected for this honor.

- 2) **Full Band Evaluation/Adjudication (CHSAA or NWNMMEA):**

Each year, both Colorado (CHSAA) and New Mexico (NWNMMEA) hold large group instrumental evaluations. Our 7th & 8th Grade Bands will participate in one of these evaluations. Each band plays before three judges who evaluate according to established guidelines. A separate judge will also evaluate a band's ability to sight-read appropriate band literature. This event

will occur during March or April. All 7th & 8th grade band personnel will be required to attend.

**The directors reserve the right to exclude any student deemed musically or behaviorally not ready to attend off campus or extra-curricular events.**

**X. Enforcement:**

Students who knowingly violate the above policies will be dealt with accordingly by the director and/or the administration.

**CMS Instrument Rental Program:**

We have a number of school owned instruments which students may rent on a first come, first served basis. The rental cost to use a school instrument for the year will be \$40.00. There is a rental agreement that must be signed to use one of the school instruments.

**City Market Cares!**

As you may know, City Market has been a great supporter of our band for the last several years. They donated over \$1000 to our band in the past few years through their Loyalty Card Campaign. If you are interested in associating your card with our band simply go to [www.citymarket.com](http://www.citymarket.com) and click on "Register". Create an account (which will include clicking on a link they email you) and when prompted for an organization to support, type in Cortez Middle School Band in the search box and our group will pop up. Simply click on our group and you are done! This takes about two minutes to complete and helps us so much. Thanks for your support!

**Tentative Parade / Performance Dates:**

October 7th - Performance at MCHS Football Game  
October 19th –Homecoming Parade  
November 10th – Veteran’s Day Parade  
December 2nd - Cortez Parade of Lights  
December 12th - CMS Winter Concert  
March (TBA) – NWNMMEA Evaluation  
April/May (TBA) – All-District Band Concert  
May 15th – Spring Band Concert

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band Book: Traditions of Excellence: Book 1 (RED COVER) (Available locally at Rocky Mountain One Stop)**

Andrew Campo  
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Alex Mohr  
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**Please promptly return this page to Mr. Campo or Mr. Mohr**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Band Period: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the Cortez Middle School Band Handbook and agree to comply with all policies and procedures herein.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Cell Phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact Phone Number(s)

This form will serve as a blanket permission form allowing the above student to participate in all parades, concerts, and other band functions. Students will be excused from any function with prior written notice from parents.