**Welcome to the award winning**

**South Kingstown High School Instrumental Music Department!!**

This year the SKHS Jazz Band placed 4th (honorable mention) in our division in the largest high school jazz competition in the nation, The Berklee High School Jazz Festival. This was the first time since the 1980’s (if ever) that the jazz band “placed” at that festival.

The Orchestra received a Superior in the RIMEA Jr. Sr. Orchestra festival and for the second year in a row received the highest score given by the judges in the festival.

Last year the Symphonic Band was one of only 5 bands that received Superiors in the RIMEA Senior Band Festival.

The past two years have set new records for SK with the most high school instrumental students qualifying for All-State, and we also had two students qualify for the extremely competitive All-Eastern Honors Ensembles. Last year in Williamsburg our ensembles came in 1st or 2nd in their division. Most of the students in elite ensembles also participate in sports at SKHS. In fact, the woodwind quintet that just performed as a demonstration ensemble for Dr. Smith’s session at the NAfME Eastern Division Conference in Hartford contain leading members of the: football, track, soccer, tennis and golf teams at SKHS! There is a tentative plan to travel to Disney next April break-marchin’ down Main Street!

A world of great music making at SKHS is looking forward to welcoming this year’s outstanding 8th grade class. So that this high level of performance can continue, some auditions need to be done to place students where they will be most comfortable while maintaining correct instrumentation in the high school ensembles. No tears, upbeat, friendly audition experiences are guaranteed!

**Do I need to audition?**

**No,** Concert Band and string performers do not need to audition.

**Yes,** if you wish to enroll in jazz band or are a woodwind or brass performer and would like to enroll in after school orchestra (instrumentation is limited to standard jazz band instrumentation and the orchestra wind section is limited to 4 flutes, 4 clarinets, 2 oboes, 2 bassoons (or bass clarinet), 4 trumpets, 3 trombones, 1 tuba . Only the violin players who wish to play 1st violin will audition in the fall all other strings are seated in their sections through assignments in the fall. Students interested in Symphonic Band are placed in that ensemble if they have qualified for All-State or have Mrs. Florenz’s recommendation up to the correct instrumentation. However, I would be happy to hear any potential Symphonic band students this spring.

**What do I play for the audition?**

Please play what you are already comfortable performing, in other words, there is no need to learn something new for this audition. Ideally each audition will contain: two major scales (1 flat key & 1 sharp key), a 1-2 minute solo or etude that you already know, and a short sight-reading example. I will also hear 1-2 choruses of Bb Blues improvisation for jazz instruments.

**When are the auditions and how do I get there?**

The auditions must be completed by Friday April 26. Please let Doc Smith know when you can come (he will be there every day after school and Wednesday night) dsmith@skschools.net or call office 360-1029 or his home, 782-8126

Auditions are held in the SKHS Music Room (enter back of SKHS into the foyer for gym/auditorium). There is a bus from CCMS to SKHS in the afternoon (#17), but you need a note from home that says that it is okay to ride that bus to SKHS.