

Sequoyah High School Instrumental Music Program

**2005 Georgia School of Excellence in Academic Achievement
2005 NCLB National School of Excellence
2006 Georgia Silver Award for Academic Excellence
Dr. Frank Petruzielo, Superintendent, Cherokee Co. Schools
Elliott Berman, Principal
School founded September 1990**

David E. Harrison, Director of Bands and Orchestra

School and Band Colors: Black, White, & Gold

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SUMMARY

The instrumental program at Sequoyah High School consistently rates 'Superior' in all areas of performance; marching, concert, and string orchestra. The Symphony Band, Concert Band, and String Orchestra have earned 33 superior ratings in 16 years. The Jazz Band, S.H.A.P.E. (SHS artistic percussion ensemble) and 'Ocean Spray' (the Steel Drum Band) have consistently performed both locally and abroad; the Steel Drum Band performed at GMEA ISC in 2004. The marching band has earned 55 superior ratings, won '1st in Class' and in Oct. 2003 won 'Grand Champion' at the Georgia Marble Invitational. Individual captions have earned over 90 superior ratings.

The Sequoyah Instrumental Music program has been responsible for implementing and hosting (on a rotational basis) the annual pre-festival concert for bands in preparation for Large Group Performance Evaluation (since 1991), the Cherokee County Marching Exhibition (since 1996), and the Cherokee County Honors Orchestra (since 1995 with Ann Berry Nichols).

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*The membership listed is for the total membership in the music program.

** Large Group Performance Evaluation, using GMEA standards.

2007-08:

+Membership: 201 students, 145 members in the marching band. The marching band rated 'Superior' and the drumline and front ensemble (mallets) won Sweepstakes respectively at the "Super Bowl of Sound" and 'Golden River Competition'. The annual November chamber concert added an evaluation component this year. **Katie Sparks, 10th grade oboist**, earned first chair concert band all-state (grades 9-10). Again, all ensembles, string orchestra, Symphonic Band and Symphony Band, earned all Superiors at district LGPE**. The Sequoyah 'Festival Band' (members from both Symphonic and Symphony Bands) performed at the National Music Festival in Chicago, Ill., earning ().

2006-07:

+Membership: 205 students, 150 members in the marching band.

The Sequoyah Symphony Band performed at the 57th Annual University of Georgia "January Music Festival" performing their second commissioned work by Bill Locklear, "Old 100th" with the composer in attendance. All 3 ensembles, String Orchestra, Symphonic Band and Symphony Band earned Superior ratings at District LGPE**. The marching band rated Superior with the Drumline winning Sweepstakes at the 'Yellow Jacket Classic' at Rockmart HS. The marching band participated in the Champs Sports Bowl in Orlando, FL. In December 2006.

Dr. David Gregory conducted "Perthshire Majesty" commissioned for him by the Tara Winds and Kendall Jones conducted "With Heart and Voice" by David Gillingham.

2005-06:

Membership: 214 students, 160 members in the marching band, the string orchestra continues to increase in numbers and quality. White Columns Invitational Competition, Superior ratings in Band, Drum Line, and Drum Majors, Excellent rating for (band) Color Guard, **Second Place in Open Class** competition, **Second Place overall** and earned the **High Music Score** for the contest.

Ga. Bandmasters Championship, All captions earned Superior ratings and Class Placements (Drum Majors, Drumline and Color Guard, **Second in Class 4A and Overall Band Third Class**, for each caption.

** On Sept. 2 the marching band membership collected over \$1300 (in response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster) and presented it to Mr. Harrison at the football game to help his family who lived in Pascagoula, MS and were impacted by the storm.

The **Symphony Band** (grade 6) and **Symphonic Bands** (grade 4) both earned Superiors at the 9th District LGPE. In April the marching band was selected and marched in the 2006 National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade in Washington, D.C.

2006 Spring Concert – Dr. David Gregory (Tara Winds and Reinhardt College) and Dr. Michael Alexander (Cobb Symphony and Kennesaw State University) guest conducted the Symphony Band and String Orchestra.

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2004-05:

Membership: 210 students, 158 members in marching band, the string orchestra has tripled in size from previous year. Georgia Marble Invitational Marching Festival, All Superiors, Second in Open Class for Band, Color Guard, Percussion and Drum majors. Warrior Invitational Marching Festival, Class AAAA, Third in Class for Band, Drum Major and Color Guard, First in Class for Percussion. Georgia Bandmasters Championship: Second in Class AAAA for Band, Percussion, Drum Major and Color Guard. Fifth appearance in the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Christmas Parade, downtown Atlanta (regional television audience), annual appearance in the local Canton Christmas Parade. The marching band was selected and marched in the 162nd New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade as a part of their tour of NYC.

Symphony Band Program placed the highest number of students in district honor band from Cherokee County each year.

Symphony Band: District Large Group Performance Evaluation, March '05, All Superior Ratings in Grade 5/6 category.

Symphonic Band, String Orchestra: District Large Group Performance Evaluation, March '05, Excellent Ratings in Grade Level 4.

Spring Concert, May '05 – Performed a World Premiere of “Month of the Cold Moon”, commissioned by the Sequoyah Band Program and composed and conducted by Dr. Roland Barrett, University of Oklahoma. The premiere was performed on the campus of Reinhardt College on May 1st, 2005.

+ - The total enrollment of Sequoyah High School has declined from 2000 in 2004 to 1500 for the 2008 school year.

2003-04:

Membership: 202 students, 151 members in the marching band.

Awards for MB: Greater Atlanta Marching Festival (9/27), The band and all captions earned all Superior Ratings and finished 3rd in 'Open Class' in all captions; Georgia Mountain Marching Festival (10/11), the band and all captions earned Superior Ratings (one of only 5 bands) ; Georgia Marble Invitational Marching Festival (10/18), the band and all captions earned Superior Ratings and band, percussion and Color Guard finished '**First in Class AAAA**', Drum Majors finished '2nd in Class' and the marching band Won "**Grand Champion**" overall.

- **2004 BCS National Championship Sugar Bowl** Trip sponsored by “Bowl Games of America” and performed Pre-game and halftime festivities with the Massed Bands.

Participation in the Field Championship, Class AAA, Placed First in Class in all categories; Marching, Music, Drum Major, Color Guard, Percussion, General Effect.

- GMEA In-Service Conference: The SHS Steel Drum Band, “Ocean Spray” was invited (and performed) at the Conference, Jan. 29-31, 2004.
- District Festival: All Superiors for Symphony Band, Symphonic Band.
- Concerts: Fall Chamber Concert (11/20), Evening of Fine Arts (12/4) Annual Holiday Concert (12/15), Winter Concert (2/26), District Festival
- **Symphony Band**, Grade 6, All Superiors, **Symphonic Band**, Grade 4,

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Superiors in Performance, **String Orchestra**, Grade 3 and 4, Excellent rating.

- **District Honor Band:** 15 students selected.

2002-03:

Membership: 195 students, 150 members in the marching band.

Awards for MB: 'Mount Vernon Mills Invitational' Competition, All Superiors, band, drum line and color guard all placed 2nd in Open Class. 'Super Bowl of Sound' Invitational, All Superiors, band, drum line and color guard all placed 2nd in Open Class.

- Concert festival: Symphony Band, Symphonic Band and String Orchestra attended district concert festival and earned all 'Superior' ratings.
- Spring Trip: Universal Studios in Orlando..
- District Honor Band: Six students participated at North Georgia College and State University.
- All-State Band: Jack Ogilvie, percussion, Senior HS All-state Orchestra.
- Concerts: Five local concerts that included a performance of patriotic music with the school chorus for a **school assembly honoring local veterans and victims of Sept. 11th**.

Special Events and Awards and an Ensemble Concert featuring student coached and performed small ensembles: The **String Orchestra** participated in district festival for the first time ever and earned a 'Superior' rating in the Grade 3-4 category, the highest level of music performed by Cherokee Co. Orchestras.

- The **SHS band program** continued it's leadership in county-wide events by **hosting and organizing the music portion of "Sept. 11, A Memorial" ceremony which was attended by over 3500 people** and included all four high school bands and over 1000 participants in the total presentation. The SHS program organized and implemented the GMEA 9th District Instrumental Festival hosted on site by Reinhardt College, including the preliminary scheduling, publishing the program, hiring adjudicators and running the event.

2001-02:

Marching band Membership – 135

Awards for MB: First in Class AAAA, Band, percussion, Color Guard, Mt. Vernon Mills Competition. Third in Open Class, Band, percussion, Color Guard, Golden River Marching Festival.

Concert festival: Symphony Band and Symphonic Band earned 'Excellent' ratings at festival.

Spring Trip: Orlando, Fl. And the parks of Walt Disney World. The marching band performed at Epcot as part of the '100 Years of Disney'.

District Honor Band: Five students selected for performance at North Georgia College and State University.

Concerts: Six local concerts including a Veterans Day Assembly coordinated with the AFJROTC, Chorus and concert bands.

Special Events and Awards: The steel drum band traveled to Jekyll Island to perform for the state convention CVAE. The SHS Band program organized the first county-wide marching band that participated in the Canton Veterans Day Parade and performed patriotic music with a massed marching band of over 400 members.

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The Conductor

David E. Harrison is a veteran teacher of 30 years; married for 22 years with 3 children and 8 grand children. Mr. Harrison is a member of the 'Charter Chiefs', faculty members who have been with the school since it opened in 1990, and holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Georgia (1978), Master of Music Education, Vander Cook College of Music, Chicago (1990), and a Specialist in Teacher Leadership (2001) from North Georgia College and State University. He is a member of Georgia Music Educators Association., Music Educators National Conference, National Band Association., Phi Beta Mu International Bandmaster's Fraternity, Professional Association of Georgia Educators, American String Teachers Association, and National School Orchestra Association and is an active adjudicator throughout Georgia. His bands have performed in Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, Virginia, Washington, D.C., New York and The Bahamas. Mr. Harrison wrote the first string orchestra curriculum and implemented the first high school string orchestra program in the Cherokee County school system. He is the Fine Arts Department Head for Sequoyah HS, a member of the school's Leadership and Data Management Team. Prior to 1990 Mr. Harrison taught 4 years at Cherokee HS (1986-1990). While at Cherokee HS the band enrollment doubled, earning Superior ratings in both marching and concert areas. At Lumpkin Co. HS (1980-86) his bands earned over 110 trophies with the marching band including 20 Superiors and 2 "First in Class" awards and 10 Superiors for concert festivals. Mr. Harrison began his career at Banks Co. HS (1978-80) tripling the size of the band program in only 2 years.