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Dear Band Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to inform you that your child has expressed an interest in participating in the Rhode Island Music Educators Association (RIMEA) Solo & Ensemble Festival.

This festival involves over 3,000 students in grades 3 through 12 from area schools all over Rhode Island. Students may participate on their instrument as a soloist and/or as a member of an ensemble such as a duo, trio, quartet, etc. Music is selected from an approved list and is given to the students by their Band Director or private teacher. Students are then expected to prepare this music for adjudication the day of the festival, and if the student receives a score of an "I" (Superior) or "II," (Excellent) he/she will receive a medal.

Last year, several students from Riverside Middle School attended this festival, and I am proud to say that almost all of those students came away with gold and silver medals.

The RIMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival is one of the best festivals that we have in Rhode Island. It serves to challenge the students in a non-competitive atmosphere and motivates them to succeed. More importantly, the student is given the opportunity to spend some time with and receive some invaluable teaching tips from professional teachers and players of the same instrument as them!

A detailed rehearsal schedule is listed on the next page, as well as information regarding the date, fee and location of the festival.

Musically yours,

Robin Silveira
Director of Bands

RIMEA JUNIOR SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

Audition Date:

Saturday, May 14, 2011

(Student times will be given just prior to the date of the event, probably sometime in April. Students should plan on spending the better of part of the day at the festival, however.)

Audition Location:

Rhode Island College - Providence, RI

Audition Fee:

\$15 per solo audition & \$30 per ensemble audition

Please send your child with the money no later than Friday, March 25th. Please make all checks payable to Riverside Middle School. All fees must be placed in a sealed envelope with name, telephone number and dollar amount on the outside

Transportation:

No bus is provided.
Students must provide their own transportation to and from the audition.

Optional Rehearsal Schedule:

Tuesdays – 2:20-3:20 p.m. by appointment only*
(starting Tuesday, March 29th)

*Students must sign up on the board for individual help from Mrs. Silveira on these days and/or practice at their own pace in the band room.

It should be stressed that students will also need to practice at home in addition to these times in order to be successful at this festival. Mrs. Silveira will not allow students to participate if they have not prepared with proper practicing.

Students receiving private lessons are not required to, but are still invited to attend after school rehearsal sessions. However, they will not be eligible for individual help from Mrs. Silveira if students without private teachers have signed up for it.