

Johnathan Birckhead

47 Everitts Road
Ringoes, NJ 08551
908-930-7808

John.Birckhead@gmail.com

Education

Boston University, Boston, MA

Masters of Music in Music Education, September 2009

Cumulative GPA: 3.63

The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ

Bachelor of Arts in Music Education, May 2006 (Concentration in Piano and Trombone)

Cumulative GPA: 3.256; Major GPA: 3.55; Dean's List Fall 2005

Certifications

CEAS, K-12 Instrumental, Vocal, and General Music – State of New Jersey, June 2006

Praxis Exam- Praxis II: Music Content Knowledge – Score 169, March 2006

Teaching Experience

Music Teacher – *Central Middle School*, Stirling, NJ (September 2006 – Present)

- Taught general music for grades 6-8 based on a self-designed curriculum in compliance with state and national standards for music education (2006-2012)
 - Acquired a \$25,000 Grant from the Pepsi Refresh Project through a rigorous voting campaign. The funds were used to acquire the “Music in Education Yamaha Keyboard Lab,” a keyboard lab now used by every student during general music classes.
- Direct the 6th Grade Band (2012 – Present)
 - Advance wind players through Book 2 of “Accent on Achievement”
 - Prepare all students for winter and spring concerts; direct concerts
 - Advance percussion players through “Modern Reading in 4/4 time” and “Modern School for Xylophone, Vibraphone, and Marimba”
- Direct The Combined 7th and 8th Grade Band (2006 – Present)
 - Teach lesson groups for all instruments in the ensemble
 - Advance wind players through Book 3 of “Accent on Achievement”
 - Prepare all students for winter and spring concerts; direct concerts
 - Prepare all students for and conduct annual “Music in the Parks” Adjudication
- Direct 6th Grade Choir (2006 – Present)
 - Teach students to develop rudimentary sight singing skills through solfège via “moveable do”
 - Teach basics of breathing, vowel placement, diction, balance, and blending techniques
 - Prepare and conduct all students to perform unison or S/A arrangements at winter and spring concerts
- Direct 7th and 8th Grade Choir (2006 – Present)
 - Teach students to develop intermediate sight singing skills based upon “movable do”
 - Assist students to continue to develop proper breathing, vowel placement, diction, balance, and blending techniques
 - Prepare and conduct all students to perform SAB arrangements at winter and spring concerts
 - Prepare all students for and direct annual “Music in the Parks” Adjudication

- Direct Jazz Ensemble (2006 – Present)
 - Teach students to develop proper jazz style and articulation
 - Teach students to develop rudimentary improvisational skills
 - Prepare all students for winter and spring concerts; direct concerts
 - Prepare all students for and direct annual “Music in the Parks” Adjudication
- Direct annual school play (2006 – Present)
 - *Fiddler Jr. (2007)*, *Seussical Jr. (2008)*, *Beauty and the Beast Jr. (2009)*, *Guys and Dolls Jr. (2010)*, *Honk Jr. (2011)*, *Willy Wonka Jr. (2012)*, *Alice in Wonderland Jr. (2013)*, *Little Mermaid Jr. (2014)*
 - Teach all musical numbers (2006 – Present)
 - Prepare blocking for actors and give drama direction (2009 – Present)
 - Choreograph all musical numbers (2012 – Present)
 - Execute sound and light design (2010 – Present)
 - Organize all parental support for costumes, make up, publicity, DVD production, and cast/crew party
- Organize and oversee all fundraisers for the music department (2006 – Present)
 - Fundraise between \$10,000-\$11,000 annually
 - Fundraisers include:
 - Weekly Pretzel Sales, Market Day, Poinsettia and Wreath Sales, and Cookie Dough Sales
 - Funds are used to:
 - Eliminate a participation fee that would otherwise be assessed on the families of band and choir students
 - Purchase music
 - Purchase necessary disposable needs such as reeds, valve oil, and cork grease
 - Purchase large scale items such as chairs, stands, drum set, xylophone, timpani, \$20,000 in lighting advancements to the stage, and \$20,000 in audio advancements to the stage
 - Procure several grants to purchase items for students

Private Music Tutor – Self-Employed Studio (2007 – Present)

- Teach private lessons to twelve students
- Specialize in instructing classical piano, jazz piano, brass studies, and music theory

Student Teacher – Council Rock North High School, Newtown, PA (August 2005 – January 2006)

- Ran rehearsals for six sections of three instrumental ensembles
- Assisted cooperating teacher in Music Theory AP units on rhythm, ear training, and dictation
- Taught unit on root position four-part writing, composed and provided study materials, and supervised the examination
- Acted as staff for a competitive 170-piece marching band

Related Professional Experience

Baseball Coach, *Central Middle School* (March 2013 – Present)

Morris Union Jointure Commission (MUJC) Jazz Band Director, (April 2009 – June 2010)

Booster Club Chair, *Central Middle School* (September 2007 – June 2010)

Watchung Hills Sending Districts Honor Band Conductor, *representing Central Middle School* (January 2007 – Present)

Performance Experience

- Performed in Community Theater Pit Orchestras for the following shows
 - *Seussical*, *The Mikado*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *South Pacific*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Peter Pan*, *The Music Man*, *Iolanthe*, *My Fair Lady*
- Annual Christmas and Easter services at St. James Church in Basking Ridge, NJ

Honors and Awards

Student Leader of the Month, Leadership Development Program, *The College of New Jersey* (November 2005)

Eagle Scout, Troop 41, Bound Brook, NJ (May 2001)

Portfolio Available Upon Request