

# RIVERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

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February 2, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may already be aware, Mrs. Ellen Morris has been working with our students in the absence of Ms. Szwed. Mrs. Morris holds NJ certifications as “Teacher of Music” and “Elementary School Teacher” along with a long list of directing experience. We are pleased that we were able to secure her services, pending Ms. Szwed’s return to school.

In Ms. Szwed’s absence, our commitment to a high quality music program at Riverdale School has not diminished. Music classes have continued, as per the master schedule, and the lessons being taught are consistent with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, and follow Ms. Szwed’s plans. As was the practice with Ms. Szwed, the students will continue to be assessed based upon their understanding of the skills/concepts being taught and will receive grades according to the school grading policy.

Music lessons continue to take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, on a rotating schedule. Please make sure your child comes prepared with his/her instrument and music book. Band practice will retain its current practice of meeting after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:33 to 3:15 p.m. Attendance is taken each rehearsal and students must inform Mrs. Morris in Ms. Szwed’s absence, if there is an excused absence. Please be reminded that a minimum number of rehearsals continues to be required by each student in order to participate in the concerts.

In addition, Chorus will also continue, weekly, on Mondays and Wednesdays after school from 2:33 to 3:15 p.m.. Attendance continues to be required in order for students to participate in the Spring Concert. Students must inform Mrs. Morris in the absence of Ms. Szwed, if there is an excused absence.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,

Keith R. Cortright  
Principal