

Gary Rothe Receives Outstanding Band Director Award from the New Hampshire Band Directors Association

Jim Chesebrough NHBDA Past President



The New Hampshire Band Directors Association (NHBDA) presents its Outstanding Band Director Award annually to individuals that have demonstrated exceptionally high levels of competence in their profession as music educators. The work with their bands has contributed to the overall quality and educational effectiveness in their schools during their careers. This year's recipient is **Mr. Gary Rothe**, band director at the Lebanon Middle School.

Gary received his undergraduate degree at Western Connecticut State College and his Masters degree from Boston University. He taught in Berlin, NH for 25 years where he developed a successful instrumental music program. While in Berlin, he hosted the New Hampshire All State Music Festival, multiple NHMEA Northern District Festivals, and even more North Country Music Festivals. He sent countless students to the All State Music Festival and he was a founding member of the NHBDA, serving on the Executive

Board and as the president from 1999-2001. Mr. Rothe moved to the Lebanon Middle School over fifteen years ago and during his tenure in the new position, continued to encouraged his students to be the best they could be.

Gary Rothe's accomplishments as a band director are undoubtedly the result of his dedication and musical abilities. But moreover, he has been successful because of his rapport with students. His calm and reflective personality allowed him to listen first and then advise. His players always wanted to be successful when a part of his ensembles, and his knowledge and direction encouraged many to go beyond the music programs in their local schools.

As an educator, Mr. Rothe was always willing to help colleagues and future educators. He advised several student teachers in his classroom and mentored 3 coworkers in the Lebanon School District.. He was always willing to give help when it was asked in a respectful, fair and honest way.

In her letter of nomination, Lebanon Middle School Chorus Director Yvette Garnham stated what so many music educators already know. She wrote, "Mr. Rothe is an icon in our state, and his legacy has touched many lives, including my own. It would be an honor for him to receive the Outstanding Band Director Award in his final year of teaching." The NHBDA Executive Board enthusiastically agrees and recognizes Mr. Gary Rothe as the 2020 Outstanding Band director for his excellence as a music educator and in appreciation for his contribution toward the betterment of Bands in New Hampshire.