

Earl Shaffer, Jr.
2010
Cosby HS
Virginia

Earl E. Shaffer, Jr. is in his 30th year as a teacher of public school music for the 2009-10 school year. An Arlington, Virginia native, he graduated from Yorktown High School in 1975, attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania and graduated from James Madison University in 1980 with a Bachelors of Music in Education degree. He was the director of the Covington (Va.) High School Band for nine years prior to moving to Chesterfield County in August 1989 where he began a seventeen-year tenure as the director of bands at Lloyd C. Bird High School. Mr. Shaffer, who's bands have earned 11 "Commonwealth of Virginia Honor Band" titles to date is also only the 16th director in state's history to be listed in the "ten-year Virginia Honor Band Director's Hall of Fame". His bands have also earned a "Superior" rating at the State Concert Festival for the past *20 consecutive years*. During his tenure in Chesterfield, the Lloyd C. Bird Band grew to a membership of over 200 students and has been recognized eleven times as a Commonwealth of Virginia Honor Band. The band has been a regular performer at College football games in the commonwealth at locations such as The University of Virginia, The College of William and Mary, Virginia Military Institute, and the University of Richmond.

The Cosby Titan Band has a fast rise to prominence in its brief history. The band has earned SUPERIOR ratings at the state concert festival in each of their three years, with the last two being unanimous SUPERIORS, and of course, earned a unanimous SUPERIOR rating at the 2009 State Marching Festival. The band has performed by invitation for football games at the University of Richmond and this year at the College of William and Mary. The has begun an active travelling schedule having performed in Myrtle Beach, Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and most recently, on board the Carnival Cruise Ship "Sensation"!!

Mr. Shaffer is proud to be selected as the Cosby Fine and Performing Arts Teacher of the Year for 2009. He was also nominated in 2008 for recognition by the National Society of High School Scholars. He was nominated for the year 2002, 2000, and 1998 as a "Who's Who Among America's Teachers". He was also selected as Lloyd C. Bird's "Teacher of the Year" for the 1998 year. In 2001, he completed his second two-year term as chairman of V.B.O.D.A District III and as a member of the V.B.O.D.A. Council of Review. Mr. Shaffer is an active adjudicator for band festivals in the mid-Atlantic region and is a sought-after guest conductor and clinician of bands. Most recently, he conducted the Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck Area High School Honor Band in April 2008 and the Hanover All-County High School Band in April 2007. He has been re-appointed to serve an additional two-year term on the James Madison University Music Education Advisory Council where he serves as an advisor to the School of Music in the area of curriculum development, working with student organizations, and music education classes. He has also been a guest lecturer for prospective music education students at Virginia Commonwealth University and Longwood University. Mr. Shaffer is also a member in Phi Beta Mu, an honorary national fraternity of band directors.

His wife Ellen, also a JMU alumnus, is a kindergarten teacher at Patrick Copeland Elementary School in Hopewell. They have three grown children. Twenty-four-year-old Katie is a second-year student at the Georgetown University School of Medicine. Twenty-year-old Jeff is a junior at James Madison University and his twin sister Megan is a third-year student at the University of Virginia.

Away from teaching, Mr. Shaffer is an avid N-Scale and O-Gauge model railroad operator and collector, a longtime "World's Greatest Hobby Ambassador" (WGH) which is a national organization designed to promote model railroading, a Washington Redskins season ticket holder and a Washington Nationals fan, is a clarinetist who has recorded with the nationally known Keystone Wind Ensemble of Indiana, Pennsylvania and who currently performs with the Commonwealth Winds of Richmond Virginia, and plays softball for the "Ambassadors" in the Chesterfield County "50 and over" league.

