

The Waterford Kettering High School Bands

R. Scott Adkins, Director

Spring 2010

WELCOME TO THE KETTERING BANDS!

Welcome to Kettering! Kettering is a wonderful place to learn, grow, and make friends that last a lifetime. For many Kettering students, band is a big part of high school. We have about 130 students involved this year in our band program. In Band, you will make friends and experience many things that will affect and influence you beyond high school. It's especially a great way to start high school!

By and large, Kettering band students are some of the most successful students in the high school—scoring high on standardized tests and winning major awards and honors in and out of band.

We invite YOU to continue playing your instrument. Join us here in the Kettering Bands. We have outstanding and successful programs, and your participation could make us even stronger and better! Don't put that instrument in its

case forever!! You've spent many years working on mastering how to play it...keep on going!! Don't give it up!

There are also advantages to being in Band:

1. Fulfill the one year of required Performing and Visual Arts credits
2. Helps kids get into a good college, having shown commitment to an arts program in high school (looks great on the application)
3. Get to know the upperclassmen at the high school
4. Participation in music makes you smarter

Meanwhile, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call or E mail.

Sincerely,

- Scott Adkins, Director

Another Banner Year for the WK Bands

This has been another HUGE year for the Kettering Band program. It all started with the usual Marching Band camp at Little Pine Island (near Grand Rapids), including our Camp Exhibition Performance the last day of camp.

Once we returned from Band Camp, we got ready for football game performances and a new school year. We were happy to go back to our beautiful, newer air-conditioned band room and music suite facility (new addition to Kettering that opened in the fall of 2006). The Jazz Ensemble was also featured at the Detroit International Jazz Festival and the marching band at the Michigan State Fair!

We performed at all Kettering home football games, Homecoming, and we went to the MSBOA Marching Band Festival and the Grand Ledge HS Marching Band Invitational (featured the MSU Spartan Marching Band!). We also played at Cedar Point's *Halloweekend* and got to ride the rides for free!

The WK Jazz Ensemble played at most band concerts this year and will perform at the MSBOA State Jazz Festival this April 14th hosted by Kettering HS.

The concert bands are also really active this year,

with performances on 4 home concerts and District 4 Band & Orchestra Festival. Our top concert band (the Wind Ensemble) has received numerous Division One (superior) Ratings at District and State Festival in previous years.

One of the biggest highlights of the 2007-08 school year in the Kettering bands was the trip and performances at Walt Disney World/Florida. We had 5 days in sunny Florida in February, 2007, and were a featured performing group. Our marching band was selected to perform in the Pre-Spectro Magic Parade in the Magic Kingdom and our concert band was chosen from a huge group of bands to be a *Featured Performer* with a Disney professional trumpet player. This was a HUGE honor! We go to Disney every 4 years, so YOU will get to go your Freshman year at WK (April, 2011). It promises to be a great trip and one that you will never forget! This year we are doing a Northern Michigan Tour to Traverse City and Mackinaw.

We look forward to seeing YOU being a part of all the exciting opportunities in the Kettering Bands next year!

NOTE: NEXT YEAR IS OUR WALT DISNEY TRIP... ALL KETTERING BAND STUDENTS WILL BE INVITED TO GO ON THIS TRIP!



Events & Info:

- *The WKHS Jazz Ensemble is a featured performer at the WMU Jazz Festival on March 13 in Kalamazoo*
- *Come to our State Solo & Ensemble Student Recital on March 23 at 6:30 PM at Canterbury-on-the-lake retirement home's Chapel*
- *Come to our big jazz band fundraiser/dance called "Puttin' On the Ritz" on May 7, 6:30-9:00 PM, Cray Middle School*
- *Spring Band Concert is on May 27th at 7 PM in the Kettering PAC*

Look for information to be mailed soon about how to join the WK MARCHING CAPTAINS. We will have a registration form mailed to you also...due by June 1st.

More info about these on the Kettering Band web site:

www.waterford.k12.mi.us/kettering/band

Information in this Newsletter:

Overview of the WK Bands - 2

Band & Sports- 3

The WK Band Boosters - 4

Borrowing uniforms & instruments- 3

Band & Gym Class - 3

Fundraising - 3

KETTERING BAND WEB SITE: www.waterford.k12.mi.us/kettering/band

Concert Bands at WKHS

Kettering has 3 Concert Bands:

- **Wind Ensemble** (“Concert Band 1” in the course catalog) - this is our top band, comprised of mostly juniors and seniors, but also open to the most talented and qualified sophomore and (rarely) some freshmen. This is a small select ensemble of about 45 players.

- **Wind Symphony** (“Concert Band 2” in the course catalog) - this is the 2nd band, with mainly sophomores, juniors, and seniors, but also open to talented and qualified freshmen. We play at concerts and festivals during the school year. There are about 60 in this band.

- **Concert Winds** (“Concert Band 3”) This band is comprised mostly of freshmen, but with some upperclassmen. We focus on performance basics and improving student skills. This band performs at most concerts and events at Kettering.



Above: WK Band students at Walt Disney World's Epcot Center in February, 2007

Below: WK Band student riding a cable car during the San Francisco trip in 2005



“Band has changed my life and given me direction for a career in music.”

-Melissa Lane,
Flute Alumnus

& now music major at CMU

Jazz Bands at WKHS

Kettering has 2 Jazz bands:

- **Jazz Ensemble** (“Jazz Band 1” in the course catalog) - this is our top jazz band, made up of mostly juniors and seniors.

- **Jazz Lab Band** (“Jazz Band 2” in the course catalog) - this is our 2nd jazz band, made up mostly of freshmen and sophomores.

Jazz band instrumentation: We have openings for students who play:

Saxophone (Alto, Tenor, Bari),

Trumpet, Trombone, Drum Set, Auxiliary Drums, Guitar, Electric or Acoustic Bass, and Piano. Unfortunately, there are no jazz band openings for other instruments.

Freshmen who want to be in a jazz group at Kettering should enroll in **Jazz Band 2**. We will have **CHAIR AUDITIONS** during the first two weeks of fall classes for chair order assignments.

Students who want to be in a jazz band must also enroll in a concert band...in other words, you cannot be in JUST a jazz band. If you haven't registered for Jazz Band yet, don't worry...it can be added this spring or summer, or during the first 3 weeks of class in the fall.

The WKHS Marching Captains

An information sheet, schedule, and registration form will be mailed to you shortly and will be available on the WK Bands web site. It's important to remember that if you would like to participate in the marching band, **you must also enroll in a concert band at Kettering (except Color Guard, who are not required to be in a concert band class)**. Also, **marching band is not required, but is optional and extra-curricular**. Students get high school course credit for taking concert bands, but they do not get class credit for marching band, since it is an extracurricular activity. The concert bands are academic classes at the high school and are NOT considered extracurricular activities.

Marching Band Pre-Camp and Band Camp are both required for full membership in the Marching Captains. There is also a fee to attend Marching Band Camp. Your registration for marching band, along with a \$100 deposit, must be received by June 1st to hold your spot. I hope EVERY new WK band student will elect to be in the Marching Captains! It's a great group and gives students many positive experiences and friendships that will last a lifetime. Next year is also a BIG YEAR for the Marching Captains—with many big performances planned, including: Cedar Point Halloweekend, possibly the Detroit Thanksgiving Day Parade, and the Spectro Magic Parade at Disney!



Above: The Marching Captains were featured in the Walt Disney World Magic Kingdom Pre Spectro Magic Parade in February, 2007

Uniforms, Equipment, and School-Owned Instruments

For students who play large instruments like tuba, bari sax, tenor sax, euphonium (baritone), the school owns a few instruments that can be borrowed during the school year. There is no fee for this use, as long as instruments are returned in the same condition at year's end. We also have percussion instruments, mellophones, french horns, and a few other instruments. Otherwise, students will need to provide their own instrument for use in concert bands, jazz bands, and the marching band.

It is important to have a good working instrument at Kettering. Make sure your instrument is in its best condition before you come to school in the fall or to marching band camp in the summer.

Students must also supply all necessary equipment that is needed for instruments, including reeds, mouthpieces, oils, cork grease, swabs, etc.

We HIGHLY RECOMMEND that every band student have a TUNER and a

METRONOME. Most good music stores like McCourt's Music in Waterford have them for \$30 (or less). These are tools that will help students play their instruments better and be more successful in band classes.

PERCUSSIONISTS need to have their own equipment for playing our school instruments. This includes: stick bag with snare drum sticks, general timpani mallets (M1), rubber keyboard mallets, hard plastic keyboard mallets, and yarn mallets. These are available at area reputable music dealers, including McCourts Music. Drumline students in marching band will need to buy marching drum sticks (more details about Drumline will be coming to interested students).

Students may use concert and marching uniforms free of charge during the school year. The only fee we assess is a small dry-cleaning charge for the uniforms they use (\$10).



Above: The WK Concert Band was a "Featured Performer" at Walt Disney World and performed with Disney's professional trumpeter Chad Shoopman.

"Band is the best thing that could happen to you, and if you let it pass you by, you'll miss it."

- Ryan Houston,
Euphonium Alumnus
& now music major at
Northwestern Michigan College

Band and Sports - Band and Gym Class

Students who plan to join athletic teams at WKHS should not worry about being in band and sports at the same time! We have band students in a variety of WK sports teams: Cross Country, Track, Girl's Basketball, Girl's Softball, Lacrosse, Hockey, Baseball, Football, Soccer, Wrestling, Volleyball, Bowling, and more. We also have students in the Poms and Cheerleaders as well. We work with the coaches regarding any conflicts with scheduling, to make sure students can do both.

Sometimes it's hard to be in some fall sports and marching band due to scheduling conflicts. Students can elect NOT to be in marching band if they so choose, but please

know that we DO have students that play fall sports AND march, though. We work out the scheduling to let you do both. Other bands (concert/jazz bands) meet during the school day and THERE ARE NO CONFLICTS. We have MANY band students who are involved in sports and we are proud of these kids and their accomplishments in music and sports! Don't let this keep you from being in band!

Also, WKHS students can take gym classes ANY TIME during their four years at Kettering. They DO NOT have to take it their freshmen year; so this is not a conflict with band either.

The 2009-10 Drum Majors: Alex Burns (Senior, Flute) and Josh Williams (Senior, Flute).

2010-11 Drum Majors: Lewis Russell & Jordan Masek.

The Marching Captains Co- Directors are Mr. Adkins and Ms. Kathryn Stone, Director of Bands at Pierce MS.



Students in the WK Drumline at Starbucks, following a parade

Fundraising Opportunities

WK Band students will have many opportunities during the school year to raise funds to pay for band-related fees and charges, including marching band camp, trips, and any other music-related or band-related purchases (things like lessons, equipment, trips, etc.).

If you would like more information about fundraising events, come to the next Band Booster Meeting at Kettering on Thursday, April 15th in the WKHS band room at 7:00 PM. You can also contact the Band Booster President, Mrs. Pam Burnell, at: 248/310-7498. New students can begin fundraising NOW for things next year (marching band camp, equipment, etc.).

Directions to the WK Band Room

When you come to functions at the Kettering band room, park in the BACK of the school by the football stadium & baseball fields. Then enter through the BACK MUSIC SUITE DOORS.

For a more detailed map, go to the band web site (www.waterford.k12.mi.us/kettering/band) and on the top of the page go to ("Click here for directions to the Kettering Music Suite").

WKHS Bands

R. Scott Adkins, Director
2800 Kettering Drive
Waterford, MI 48329

Phone (school office hours
only):
248-673-1261 x314

E-Mail:
AdkinR01@wsdmi.org

"Being in band has drastically changed my life! I came in as a freshman not knowing what I wanted to do after high school. Now I'm leaving WK and ready to go to CMU as a Music Education Major!"
- Amanda Sams,
Senior Clarinet Player
Class of 2009, WKHS

A ten-year study indicates that students who study music achieve higher test scores, regardless of socioeconomic background.

**-Dr. James Catterall,
University of California at Los Angeles**

MAJOR WK BAND TRIPS

- Walt Disney World, Florida (every 4 years)
- San Francisco (2005)
- New Orleans (2001)
- New York (1999)
- Toronto
- Chicago
- Mackinac Island/Mackinaw City (2002)
- Mackinac Island/Mackinaw City (2009)

Students who participate in school band or orchestra have the lowest levels of current and lifelong use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs among any group in our society.

Congressional Resolution 266, United States Senate, June 13, 2000

The Waterford School District was named as one of the **Best 100 Communities for Music Education in America** through a survey conducted by a partnership of leading music and educational organizations and the American Music Conference (AMC). The 2005, 2006, and 2007 rosters include Waterford's music program along with school districts from 34 different states whose commitment to quality music education—measured across a variety of economic, curricular and programmatic criteria—has enabled them to stand out despite the many pressures on music programs across the country.

WKHS Band Boosters - The Key to Our Success

Without the support of the WKHS Band Boosters, the WK Bands would not be able to function successfully. Who are the Boosters? They are YOU—the parents of WK band students. Besides the obvious need for funds and the important fundraising activities that run nearly year-round, the Boosters are the support group for concert coordination, chaperones for band camp, and are the folks who get marching and uniforms distributed during the fall. They do this and countless other activities and events—all for the KIDS.

For another example, the marching band is sporting nice marching band uniforms. The Band Boosters paid for 90% of these. They also are the ones that bought the concert tuxedos and dresses that make our concert groups look so professional.

Here is yet another example: the concert bands were in need of a major upgrade of quality concert percussion instruments to use in our own concerts and for hosting festivals at our school. The Band Boosters stepped up and provided \$16,000 worth of badly-needed percussion instruments. They are really nice!

Please consider what your role will be with the Band Boosters. It's simple: we just cannot do what we do without your help, inspiration, encouragement, fundraising support, and enthusiasm! Times are tough right now for schools financially and our bands will especially need the extra help financially.

REMEMBER: Why do we do all of this? It's for the **KIDS!**

Another big advantage to being involved in the Boosters is **STAYING INFORMED** and getting the **LATEST INFORMATION** that involves your students (concerts, rehearsals, calendar dates, fundraisers, etc.). You will also have the opportunity to be a part of important decisions involving the band program.

Think about things that you are good at doing that can help our band students (building, moving, organizing, cooking, sewing, serving, etc.). **EVERYONE** has some ability that they can contribute, with the greatest ability being **AVAILABILITY**. We need **ALL PARENTS** to become involved and active with the Boosters.

WKHS Band Booster
Mailing Address:
7092 Highland Rd.
PMB 125

Waterford, MI 48327

(or drop off mail for Boosters at the
Main Office at Kettering HS)



Group shot of our Spring Band Trip to San Francisco at the Golden Gate Bridge

*****PLEASE ATTEND OUR BOOSTER MEETINGS THIS YEAR*****

****For Parents****

Thursdays - April 15, May 6, June 3

7:00-8:30 PM, Waterford Kettering HS Band Room

- Meet other Kettering Band students and parents
- Get information about the upcoming band events & marching band camp
- Find out more information about instrument and uniform borrowing
- Learn about fundraising opportunities to help pay for the camp, trips, equipment, etc.
- And much more

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.waterford.k12.mi.us/kettering/band
