

# Kalkaska Bands

Dear Prospective Band Parent/s,

Spring 2009



Greetings from the Kalkaska Bands and thank you for taking a brief moment to review some important information that could have a lasting impact on the future of your child. Important decisions are ahead for you and your child concerning enrollment in the life enriching class we call BAND. This is not just a choice about band, but also a choice based on what group of people will become the peers of your son or daughter.



It is that time of year when we formally introduce the 5th grade to the wonderful world of Instrumental Music. It has been a joy working with a talented group of sixth grade band members this year and I eagerly look forward to this new crop of budding young artists who will join the new beginning band this fall at Kalkaska Middle School!

Band students represent the top of the academic scale in our schools. They are averaging 62 points higher on SAT tests, which would indicate they are stronger in verbal and math scores than other members of the student body. We also know band students are the ones who enjoy a successful high school career, go on to college and become the leaders in our society. Most C.E.O.'s in "Fortune 500" companies have had backgrounds in music and are advocates of music education.



One of the most positive impressions you can offer your child is the chance to learn self-discipline at the highest level via participation in band. Their social skills, communication skills, self-concepts, cooperative talents and creative mind will all be nurtured through their study of music. These life-skills will serve as an important foundation as they take on various responsibilities in their future.



Everyone loves music and it's an awesome experience to be behind the instrument creating it! In April, all 5th graders were involved in a listening evaluation which is used in part to aide in fitting your child for the best instrument for him/her. Soon, seniors will graduate and another class of budding musicians will begin! I ask our 5th grade students to consider three instrumental choices they may have in mind before they're "fit" for instruments. By the end of May, representatives from Marshall Music will be helping me with the fitting process as we look at your child's listening survey results, personal interest, physical stature, coordination and embouchure.

Kalkaska Middle School Concert Band received four straight superior ratings this year at both District and recently at the STATE BAND FESTIVAL! What a wonderful time for your child to join an exciting and successful program! A program built on personal discipline and pride. A team who has already performed in Chicago, Niagara Falls Ontario and Disney World (twice!). With practice and encouragement from home and school, there's no stopping the potential of your child's class!



We offer school owned instruments to use throughout the year for under \$40.00! Or you may choose Marshall Music, who visits our school each week for supplies and repair, and offers a no interest program that is quite affordable and easy to understand. If you have any questions before then, please feel free to call me at 258-4040, ext. 230 or email at [cchissus@kpschools.com](mailto:cchissus@kpschools.com) Thank you for your time as we prepare to [Strike Up The Band](#) with your child playing in the musical spotlight this fall and beyond!

Musically,

Craig M. Chissus  
Kalkaska Public Schools, Director of Bands

