



3399 Division Road ● Jackson, WI 53037-9707  
Phone: 262-677-4051 ● Fax: 262-677-4290  
www.kmlhs.org

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Dear WELS Middle School Honors Band Member,

Congratulations on your selection to the 2018 WELS Middle School Honors Band! Your band directors and I have talked about starting an event like this for a number of years and we're excited that the time has finally come. We are fully committed to making sure this is a great experience for you this year and we are hopeful it will be the first of many such groups moving forward.

Please practice your music carefully, paying special attention to dynamics, articulations, and other details that make the music special. Please seek help from your band director in preparing your music. The more you are able to work on the music before the day of the festival, the more we'll be able to work on fine-tuning things that day, resulting in the best performance possible at the end of the day.

We are asking the percussion students to arrive a little before everyone else so they have some time to familiarize themselves with the equipment and the set up at KML. Percussionists should arrive and register between 8:45 and 9:00. Everyone else can register starting at 9:15. When you arrive, please check in at the table in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) lobby. We need to begin our day promptly at 9:45. All meals and snacks for the day will be provided.

Our guest conductor and clinician for the day will be composer and arranger, Michael Sweeney. He is well-known for his band arrangements and compositions for young bands and has over 500 published compositions! I would guess you have probably played at least one of his pieces before. Mr. Sweeney is looking forward to working with you!

Be sure to wear comfortable clothes for rehearsals and activities and to bring concert clothes for the evening performance. Gentlemen, please wear dress pants, a shirt, and a tie. Ladies, please wear dress slacks, a floor-length skirt, or dress. Make sure your instrument is in good playing condition and you have oils, reeds, and anything else you need for a successful day.

If you have any questions about anything, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to welcoming you to our campus!

Blessings on your preparations!

Nate Amundson  
Director of Elementary School Bands  
Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School  
nate.amundson@kmlhs.org