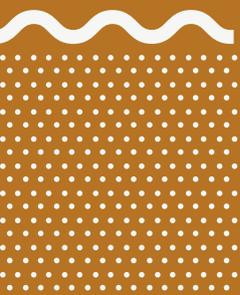


# DGS Bands Music Notes



*The Newsletter of the Downers Grove South  
High School Band Program*



## A note from Mr. Williams:



One of the many things I adore about learning and teaching is that the roles are frequently interchangeable. During remote learning this week I had a student remind me of something essential to learning. I'll remain eternally grateful for this reminder.

Early Bird jazz band meets at 7:00 AM four days a week this year. One student in the class has spent every morning outside in his backyard. Sometimes, we heard the birds chirping, reminding us all why this period has such a strange nickname. At the start of the year, the sunshine was prevalent and the temperatures were warm. As the earth continued to rotate on its axis, the mornings grew darker and colder. On October 26th, the atmosphere produced hail, sleet and snow. As shown in the image above, the case of the student filled with the aforementioned hail, sleet and snow during class.

I was so impressed with the perseverance of this student that I seized the moment to recognize his dedication with a Mustang Way cookie. In fact, two packages of Mustang Way cookies from Jewel. A home visit with a quick photograph was in order to fully acknowledge the tenacity of this student.

So what did this student teach me? This student reminded me that the joy of studying, talking about and playing jazz music can't be altered by remote learning, by a global pandemic, or by an unwelcome winter day in October. The elation and determination for performing music comes first and foremost from within. It is this intrinsic joy and tenacity that makes nearly any situation bearable as long as there is music involved. I express my genuine thanks to Jacob and to every other student this year who reminds me how fortunate I am to teach music, even at 7 AM in the snow.



# Listening Corner

What music have you been listening to lately? Are you in a slump, looking for something new? Check out the album 52nd Street by Billy Joel!

Here is an excerpt from Rolling Stone's review of the album:

"On 52nd Street and The Stranger, Billy Joel is the quintessential postrock entertainer: a vaudevillian piano man and mimic who, having come of age in the late Sixties, has the grasp of rock and the technical know-how to be able to caricature both Bob Dylan and the Beatles as well as "do" an updated Anthony Newley, all in the same Las Vegas format. Joel seems to have been born knowing what many Seventies pop stars have had to find out the hard way: that rock & roll was always part of show business. Being a pianist (and a bravura one), he's also been more aware than many of his guitar-based peers that rock has always been a species of popular music and not a totally separate art form."

[Link to full review on Rolling Stone Website](#)



[YouTube Playlist - Full Album](#)

[Spotify Album Link](#)



## Tyler Lindsay - USMB "The President's Own"



On Tuesday November 10th, the Jazz Bands were fortunate to have another guest clinician join our class. Through an outreach program with the United States Marine Band, we were able to receive a FREE clinic from Staff Sergeant Tyler Lindsay on Jazz Improvisation. The students learned a lot about the approach to learning melodies and using those melodies to create melodic improvisation ideas.

A bit about Staff Sergeant Lindsay:

Trumpeter/cornetist Staff Sergeant Tyler Lindsay joined "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in May 2019. Staff Sergeant Lindsay began his musical instruction on trumpet at age 3. After graduating high school in 2013, he earned a bachelor's degree in trumpet performance and composition from Loyola University in New Orleans in 2017 and a master's degree in music performance from Temple University in Philadelphia in 2019. His instructors included Dr. Nick Volz and Vance Woolf of Loyola University and Anthony Prisk of Temple University.

[Marine Band Website Link](#)



# Marching Mustangs Deliver School Spirit with Homecoming Video

The Marching Mustangs recorded a performance of the Fight Song for the DGS 2020 Homecoming Video. If you missed it, please enjoy this performance!

## DGS Homecoming Fight Song Performance



## Congrats to the 2020 ILMEA All-District Musicians!



The music faculty, private teachers and sender school music teachers associated with South High School are proud to recognize the students that earned placements in the 2020 ILMEA District 1 Festivals in band, choir, jazz band, vocal jazz and orchestra. Due to COVID-19, in-person auditions were suspended in 2020. The top placing scores were selected for participation in the District Music Festival, which will be held (virtually) on November 21, 2020.

Student musicians enrolled in music ensembles in the DGS Fine Arts department continue to annually demonstrate remarkable success at both the District and All-State level. "The experiences these students have at District Festival ignite their passion for music, and in turn, they return to South High School and ignite the passion of those around them." said DGS Fine Arts Chairman Glenn Williams.

### SENIOR BAND AND ORCHESTRA WINDS AND PERCUSSION:

Allison Ford (11) - Trumpet (Band)  
Katherine Opila (11) - Band (Trombone)  
Katie Steffgen (11) - Band (Clarinet)  
Derek Reynolds (12) - Trombone (Orchestra)

### SENIOR INSTRUMENTAL JAZZ:

Owen Anderson (9) - Guitar - (Jazz Ensemble II)  
Derek Reynolds (12) - Trombone - (Jazz Ensemble I)  
Andrew Brandt (11) - Trombone - (Jazz Ensemble II)  
Anthony Rosalia (12) - Tenor Saxophone - (Jazz Ensemble II)

For full results, check out the [DGS Fine Arts Blog](#)

## DGS Bands Saddened by the Loss of Jim Mizener.



In the fall of 1965, Jim joined the faculty as a teacher in what was then the Industrial Technology Department. After more than 30 years at South, many as department chairperson, Jim retired as a teacher and immediately joined the support staff as an aide in the Fine Arts computer lab. He held that role until the spring of 2019. Jim is known throughout and beyond our community as the "Voice of the Mustangs." To this day, he has served as the public address announcer for nearly every sport at South High, and announced for many more at North High. We all became used to seeing Jim being in the building at all hours, updating and maintaining most of the athletic display cases. Because of his level of involvement, Jim came to know many kids and always spent time getting to know them as individuals. Jim was a big supporter of the arts and was seen regularly at band, choir, art and orchestra events. We will miss you, Jim.



# Student Work Spotlight



This month we would like to feature the exemplary work of two DGS Band members, **Liv Balicki** and **Belle Lewis**. For a class assignment in Wind Symphony, Belle recently recorded herself playing her part to "Aggressivo" by Randall Standridge. Belle realized that with the flexible instrumentation on the piece, that she could record herself playing four different parts. Pretty cool, huh? Well, she didn't stop there. She recorded herself playing two of the parts on flute and the other two on violin.

## 4 Part Aggressivo Recording (2 Flutes/2 Violins) - Belle Lewis

Liv Balicki has been using Soundtrap, a recording software available to students this year in our MusicFirst platform. Taking full advantage of this software, Liv decided to record herself working on a fun side project. Please enjoy this beautiful recording of Liv playing "Dear Theodosia" taken from the Broadway show, Hamilton.

## "Dear Theodosia" from Hamilton - Liv Balicki

## Private Lessons

Struggling to find motivation to practice? Feel like you could use a little boost?

Private Lessons are still happening virtually. This is a great way to work with a professional musician to hone your skills. Contact a private lesson teacher today!

### Private Lessons



## Band Boosters



The Mustang Band Boosters are a proud organization of parents that help promote the DGS Band Program.

Ever thought about getting involved? This is the best time to do it! Come to a meeting learn about what's going on.

Meetings take place the first Monday of every month, starting a 7:00 PM and are open to all. Hope to see you there!

### ZOOM Meeting Link

(This link never changes)

Next Meeting:

Monday December 7th, 2020

# Marching Mustangs Celebrate the Class of 2020!

Without the football season this Fall, our Marching Mustang Seniors missed out on our Senior Night tradition to honor each senior and get a photo with their senior sign. On November 9th, we invited seniors and family members to join us in the stadium for senior night and were able to get some socially distant photos. Some of those pictures are shared below. All pictures will eventually be shared on the Booster Website. Big thanks to Tracy Kenyeri for her photography services and to Galinda Tunney and the team of parents who put together the Senior Signs. It was a team effort and indicative of the community we have in the Marching Mustangs!



# Staff Spotlight: Stephanie Peterson



Role: Color Guard Director and D99 French Teacher

Stephanie "Millie" Peterson is in her 2nd year at DGS. She began her color guard career as a high school student in Michigan, and marched for many seasons with her school before performing and competing with independent groups. While attending Michigan State University to earn a degree in French Education, Millie continued to assist and instruct various color guards around the state. After graduating, she took a hiatus from color guard to focus on her French teaching career, and earned a Master's in Educational Technology. She recommenced her guard career in 2014. While teaching French at Munster High School in Munster, Indiana, she also worked with the marching band program as a color guard and winter guard technician. She moved to Downers Grove in 2019 and has been working with the color guard ever since. Millie is committed to DGS's color guard program and the growth and development of the team and students. When she is not teaching French or color guard, Millie enjoys reading, hiking, spending time with friends and family, and defending the ending of Lost (the best television show of all time).



## 2020 Virtual Music Bowl Sheds Light on Program's History:

With the leaves falling and temperature dropping, the Marching Mustangs have grown accustomed to hosting the annual Marching Mustang Music Bowl. Hosting roughly twenty high school bands to compete in the Marching Arts. The pandemic forced a cancellation of the event this year, which would have been the 18th annual Music Bowl.

To keep the spirit alive, DGS Bands contacted alumni band parent and videographer of the Marching Mustangs, Mike Legel. Mike was gracious enough to compile a YouTube playlist of past champions. We then sent the playlist out to all the competing bands to view these performances. After one week of viewing, we collected the viewership data to crown a virtual grand champion!

Thank you to Mike for helping keep the spirit alive this year. Congratulations to the Batavia High School Marching Bulldogs for the most views!

Viewer Data from 2020 Virtual Music Bowl	
Year	Views
2018 - Warren Township	42
2017 - Batavia High School	234
2016 - Greendale	40
2014 - Waukesha North	17
2013 - Plainfield North	15
2008 - Lake Park	26
2007 - Lincoln Way Central	14
2006 - Lincoln Way Central	14
2004 - Prospect High School	105
2003 - Marion Central	124
Total Views -----	631





# Drum Major Podium: Alaina Garcia



Hey everyone! My name is Alaina, and I am currently in the process of completing my senior year.... crazy right? Who knew that time could fly on so quickly?! Seriously though, does anyone know how to build a time machine....? If so, that would be VERY much appreciated. I can't tell you how often I wish to go back in time, just to feel the positive energy and excitement bouncing off from person to person. To hear "Last time!" being called, knowing that IT'S AN OHIO STATE MARCHING BAND-SIZED LIE. To have one last final run, followed by returning home with a shoe (or two) full of "turf turds." To stand on the [insanely tall] podium once again and be taller than Jeffery, Nick and Hannah for just a little while longer. Most of all, to chant "We're the Big Blue!" one last time, standing with the rest of the marching band.

I used to be a really shy clarinet player who never envisioned herself being the leader that she is today. This is part of the reason why I'm so grateful to have served as one of our four drum majors for the past two years; making up a fourth of the "Fantastic Four." I'm grateful for the friends that I've made along the way and I'm grateful to be a part of something with such an immense impact. Marching band has truly helped me become a better leader, a stronger person, and dedicated individual. I do not regret spending countless hours on the field or in the band room, nor do I regret a single sock-tanline. For some, that doesn't sound enjoyable but I think marching band is DEFINITELY an activity that no one will ever understand how amazing it is until they've gotten to experience it, too.

Due to a car accident, I was absent for a rather large portion of this past season but I'd like to say that I am BEYOND proud of the Marching Mustangs, their ability to adapt, overcome, and continue moving forward. The number of things that were accomplished (DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE'RE KIND OF IN THE MIDST OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC) is without a doubt, immaculate. I'm very appreciative of the way our directors were able to safely organize something for this season, as well as everyone's hard work and desire to make the most out of such an unfortunate situation.

As for my fellow seniors, I am so sorry that this is how we're spending our final year. I know how disappointed you might feel right now and your feelings are completely valid. The year 2020 hasn't been an easy 8 to 5 on the field. It's difficult to avoid looking back on what was, without thinking that you might've taken things for granted. Trust me, I know!! We can't change how things have turned out, but while we're waiting for that time machine to be invented, let's try to change the way we think about how things have turned out! What are some of the biggest challenges that you were able to overcome in your high school career? Has your individuality or outlook on life changed at all since beginning high school? Last but not least, whenever things became difficult, what motivated you or kept you on your feet?

They say "all good things come to an end" but I beg to differ. When I look at our marching band, I see a clear reflection of the people and program that I've been able to call my home. This reflection includes some of the kindest, most devoted, hardworking, and inspirational individuals I know. We had the chance to completely give up on this season, but we didn't. We kept going, regardless of the challenges we had to endure. Without a doubt, that's what the Marching Mustangs are all about.

Your friend,  
Alaina

