

Friday, August 20, 2021

Dear families of Evergreen Park School District 124,

My name is Will Carlson, and as of the 2021-2022 school year, I will be joining Mark Dreyer as co-director of the D124 band program. I am thrilled to be a part of this musical family, and I make my introduction with this promise: I will do everything in my power to support and uplift students in the band classroom. I thank you for entrusting me with the fantastic opportunity to work with your children, and I hope to meet with you in-person soon!

My background is that of a love for band and teaching. I am a proud Ohio State alumnus, and was personally involved in a number of ensembles there, including marching and concert bands. I am lucky to have been able to teach in a wide variety of musical environments; I have experience with elementary music, middle school band, and high school marching and concert bands. This said, I feel confident in saying that the D124 band program already feels like home.

My role this first concert cycle will be primarily to work with the fifth and sixth grade bands. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of these students will be playing an instrument for the first time. This can be an exciting and challenging time, but I assure you we are here to help!

Regarding the value of band class, a quote by Leonard Bernstein comes to mind: "Music can name the unnameable and communicate the unknowable". Music, and band specifically, serves as an environment where we build new skills, absorb knowledge, and engage in a community. "But wait, there's more!" - music classes allow us to learn more about ourselves, and our emotional well-being. I seek to bring out all of these experiences for your child.

In order to have your child join band, please contact myself or Mark Dreyer. You will also find concert dates, class expectations, and other resources at our website: [d124.weebly.com](http://d124.weebly.com). Stay tuned for our events this school year, including our recruitment opportunities. We hope to see you there!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for allowing your child to participate in this great community!

Best regards,



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