

MGS BAND NEWSLETTER

Dawn Trotter, Band Director

August 19, 2017

Hi! I hope you all are staying cool. I know I am trying to. I think this past summer was the quickest ever. I am, however, very excited about this school year. The bands will be trying a lot of new and exciting things this year. First, for those of you who do not know me, my name is Dawn Trotter and I am the band director in this district. I am a native of Lacon, Illinois. I earned my Bachelor of Music Education degree from Illinois State University, Normal. I studied Applied Trombone with ISU professors Charles Stokes and Steve Parsons. I participated in several performing ensembles at ISU including the award-winning ISU Wind Symphony, under the direction of Dr. Stephen Steele. I earned my Master of Music Education degree at University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois where I studied Applied Euphonium with Mark Moore and Applied Trumpet with Michael Ewald.

I have many years of experience in different areas of Instrumental Music. I served as a trombone clinician for the Bands-of-America Summer Symposium, a national summer band camp, and I have taught marching and maneuvering for several marching bands throughout the mid western United States. On the organizational side of things, I have served on the staff of the Illinois Music Educator's Association State Convention.

My directing experiences include serving as Director of Bands in the Deer Creek-Mackinaw School District, Assistant Director for the Marshall-Putnam-Stark Jazz Band and Show Choir, as well as a Student Teaching assignment at Illinois Valley Central School District.

In my spare time I enjoy biking, hiking, roller blading, scuba diving, sailing and riding my Harley. My parents are Dale and Diane Trotter of Lacon. I also have one brother, Dirk, who is the lead singer in the band Blue Magoo.

I thoroughly enjoy working here at MGS and I am looking forward to an incredible year. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school any time.

Newsletter-This is a monthly newsletter which posted on our district website. It will contain information on concerts, local musical events and updates on the bands' progress. If you have any information you would like to appear in the newsletter please contact me.

Fifth Grade Band-Calling all 5th graders!!! You won't want to miss the 5th Grade Band Demonstration!! The demonstration date for fifth graders interested in joining band will be August 23rd. Demonstrations will begin at 8:30 a.m. and each class will come down to the band room to try an instrument. You will have the opportunity to see, hear, and try various band instruments during this presentation! The teachers have been informed of this and your student will be excused. The official "sign-up"/instrument rental night is August 31st from 3:00-7:00 in the new gym foyer. Music Shoppe representative will be available to rent instruments, as well as allow students to try out different instruments. Please stop by at the time most convenient for you. If you can not come Thursday night please just send a note with your student and I will send information home with him or stop by. Learning to play an instrument has been proven to enhance overall learning potential in students. Being in band is fun, too!!

Sixth Grade Band-The sixth grade band is off to a fantastic start and I am confident that we are going to have a GREAT year

Jr. Jazz High Band-We will have Jr. High Jazz Band again this year. This band was a huge success last year. I would really like to thank the parents for getting these kids to school early to rehearse. I could not have done it without you! We rehearse Monday, Wednesday and specific Friday mornings from 8:00 to 8:20. This is done strictly on a voluntary basis. Students will receive further details at a later date.

Booster Club-The purpose of this group is to support, assist, encourage, and motivate the music students of District 1. This group is for anyone who would like to see the music program in our district continue to grow. You do not have to be a music parent. The program can not improve without your support. We all must work together to make it happen. Please support our program! If you would like to donate cookies, napkins or cups for the fifth grade sign-up night please send these items to school with your student August 31st. I could also use some parents to help out that night. If you could help out please contact me at dtrotter@schools.mtco.com. Thank you for all of your support!

Jr. High Band-The Jr. High Band has done an outstanding job so far this year! Keep up the good work! Jr. High lessons are well under way. Please make sure your student is aware of his lesson time.

Recorders-We are offering an exciting musical opportunity to our students. This unique opportunity has been offered over the past several years. The students are extremely excited about starting this program. The fourth graders are the only age that is offered this and the program was designed specifically for them. We will give one or two concerts later in the year. It is important that your child attends both concerts because their nonparticipation/participation in these concerts will affect their recorder grade. If a certain family circumstance arises on these concert dates, please contact me immediately. In addition, there are two special events (parties) that occur during the school year and participation is based on the criteria such as having the necessary materials for class, percentage of time practicing, active participation, and attending the two concerts. My sincere thanks and appreciation goes to the administration and fourth grade teachers for giving us the opportunity to make some great music!

Colorguard-MGS color guard is back! If you are interested in color guard or have a friend interested please stop by and see Ms Trotter for more information. Thank you!

Homecoming Parade--The MGS Jr. High marching band will be making its premiere performance in this parade Friday, September 29th, so please give these kids your support. They are doing a great job! All of these students will need to purchase a MGS Band T-Shirt. This shirt will be worn in the parade with their new uniform pants and ALL black shoes. The cost of these shirts is \$12. If you can help fit students for uniforms I would really appreciate it! Please call me at 367-2361. If students are interested in purchasing a good pair of marching shoes, I will be ordering some. I will not require that band members have these shoes, but I would highly recommend it. The cost of the shoes is \$25. All checks can be made payable to MGS Bands. If you are having a problem coming up with the money, please contact me. We will set up a payment plan or something to help out. I do, however need this money as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing you at the parade!

Shield Carriers-The marching band will need 10 Sixth Grade Band members to carry the shields in front of the band at the Homecoming parade. The first 10 sixth grade band members to bring \$12 for a band T-Shirt will get to carry a shield. These students will also need to be fitted for marching pants and wear black shoes.

ATTENTION: NEW STUDENTS-New Grade School students who played in the Band in their previous school, or who might be interested in starting in the Band Program and have no prior band experience, are encouraged to stop in the Band Room any time during the first week of school and get information from Miss

Trotter about our outstanding Band Program. Parents of new students may also get more information by calling the grade school at 367-2361 or by email to dtrotter@schools.mtco.com.

MGS Band Calendar

August 23	5 th Grade Band Demo
August 31	5 th Grade Band Sign-Up
September 29	MTHS Homecoming Parade
October 23	Pep Band at Girls Basketball Game
November 2	Pep Band at Girls Basketball Game
November 8	Pep Band at Girls Basketball Game
November 14	Pep Band at Girls Basketball Game
December 5	Pep Band at Boys Basketball Game
December 7	Jr. High Band Christmas Concert
December 12	Pep Band at Boys Basketball Game
January 9	Pep Band at Boys Basketball Game
January 16	Pep Band at Boys Basketball Game
February 22	4 th /5 th Grade Winter Concert
April 26	Jr. High Band Spring Concert
April 27	6 th Grade Band to Symphony
May 3	4 th /5 th Grade Spring Concert

