

ANN ARBOR OPEN @ MACK BANDS

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Welcome to Band at A2O! As part of the Ann Arbor Public Schools music department, our band program enjoys a tradition of excellence and offers a rich curriculum of rewarding experiences for students. Read on for information about our bands and the events and opportunities scheduled for this school year.

OUR ENSEMBLES

All 5th graders will learn to play a band or orchestra instrument this year. During the first three weeks of school students will get a chance to try the instruments and make their instrument choices. Parents can expect information to come home the first week of school. As soon as instruments are assigned, fifth graders meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays in classes grouped by instrument family, and will present an evening concert at the end of the school year. Parents of band students will also be invited to an Informance during their child's class before the December holiday break.

Intermediate Band is for students in 6th grade who have played an instrument for at least one school year. We rehearse on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and present two evening concerts each year, in the late fall and spring. In addition, Intermediate Band students present a chamber music recital in conjunction with the Coffee House Music Fundraiser. Students will be bringing home specific information the first week of school about requirements and responsibilities for Intermediate band, and detailed information about these performances will be sent home well in advance of the performance dates.

Advanced Band is for students in 7th and 8th grades who have played their instruments for at least two school years. We meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and present four concerts each year, including the city-wide Bands in Review and Picnic Pops. Advanced Band students have additional performance opportunities, including Michigan All State auditions, Solo and Ensemble Festival, Coffee House Music Fundraiser, summer camp scholarship auditions, and high school band auditions for 8th graders. In addition, 7th and 8th graders take music field trips to hear UMS and A2SO concerts; this year we will be hearing the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra on November 28th in Hill Auditorium. Students will be bringing home specific information the first week of school about requirements and responsibilities for Advanced Band, and detailed information about all of these performances will be sent home well in advance of the performance dates.

OUR DIRECTORS

CAROLYN BYBEE is a trumpeter who grew up in rural Iowa, and she has music education and performance degrees from Iowa State University and The University of Michigan. Ms. Bybee is in her 25th year of teaching in the AAPS. She has taught in many different buildings, and is currently teaching at Burns Park in addition to A2O. She also works at the Balas Administration building as administrator for the AAPS instrument inventory databases and instrumental music supplies. Carolyn is a professional trumpeter and has performed as a soloist, a chamber musician, and with many of the symphony orchestras in southeast Michigan. She has performed extensively with the Detroit Symphony and Michigan Opera Theater orchestras, playing twice in Carnegie Hall with the DSO. Carolyn was honored to perform as the trumpet soloist for the opening ceremonies and mass during the visit of Pope John Paul II to Detroit. In addition to her own teaching and performing, Carolyn enjoys making music with her husband Charles and their son Dylan, who are also accomplished musicians.

ERIN LILLIEFORS is in her ninth year of teaching. She graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Music Education in 2009. Soon afterwards, she began teaching in Hooks, Texas, and then taught in Winnsboro, Texas for 4 years. When her family relocated to Michigan, she began her graduate studies in music composition at Eastern Michigan, and has worked for EMU as a graduate assistant. Before coming to the AAPS, Erin taught in the Morenci, Michigan Area Schools as a K-12 general music teacher and band director. This is her second year working with band students at Ann Arbor Open, and she also teaches at Forsythe, Lawton, and Abbot schools. Outside of school, Mrs. Lilliefors works on writing music and spends time with her husband Eric and daughter Charlotte.