

To the Parents of All Eighth Grade Band Members:

The Carroll High School Band has finished this year's marching season, and is currently busy with basketball games, concert and jazz band, solo and ensembles, and plans are already being made for the upcoming year. Part of this important preparation focuses on the recruitment of our new members who are completing their middle school training. Therefore, I want to begin an early communication with you, the parents, to ensure all those involved in instrumental music will have a positive transition to the high school program.

There are many new challenges facing the first-year high school student. Being in band will help make this process a pleasant one. In addition, it will afford every student the opportunity to enter an advanced level of instruction with a host of talented friends who share a similar interest and a familiar language – music. Our upperclassmen will serve as a safe and supportive social family in the introduction to this new learning climate.

Now is the time when artistic investment begins to pay measurable dividends. The seeds of success are about to produce a harvest of exciting opportunities for your child. It's time to start thinking about that all-important first step forward as a member of our organization. Choosing to join the high school band is one of the most significant and beneficial decisions your son or daughter can make.

Students are often ambivalent and even fearful about entering high school. Whether it is a new building, different teachers, or strange classmates, high school can be very intimidating. Much of this first-year stress can be avoided when the student is an integral and valued member of a meaningful and important group – the band. I'm sure you agree they deserve this advantage, and they have earned it.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss our program in detail and share my professional thoughts about the positive implications associated with our band.

I am anxiously looking forward to working with the eighth grade students. We all feel the class of 2010 will bring a new level of excellence to our ensemble.

Thank you for your time.

Musically yours,

Dick Karkosky

Director of Instrument Music