

# AMBRIDGE

♪ AAHS MUSIC ♪

**Marie Dewar, Director of Bands and Choirs**

Ambridge Area High School

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Dear Band Students and Parents,

Welcome back from one of the most unique summers of all time, and welcome to one of the most exciting experiences in which you can be a part – the Ambridge Area High School Band! This band has performed for thousands of people at various events and festivals throughout the country. You are now part of a rich tradition that will influence all future members. Now, more than ever, we have information to justify why we participate in this challenging, yet rewarding activity. Experts have concluded that the study of music helps with spatial reasoning, test taking, and overall quality of life! Factor in social skills, emotional development, leadership training, team building, aesthetic perception, music making, and the discipline of being in a band program, and I don't know why anyone would not want to be involved in a successful band program such as ours! If you are a freshman parent, please become involved in the wonderful booster organization that we have here at Ambridge. The band relies greatly on the boosters for numerous things, so please help out whenever possible.

Everyone should read the information in the handbook, even veterans. Some information has changed, so please make sure that you are informed. For those of you that are new to the program, the handbook is the instruction manual for all things band, and it helps us keep things running smoothly and efficiently. Most questions can be answered by consulting the handbook, and policies may be adjusted from year to year as the need arises to clarify issues within the program. It is my hope that the information contained in the handbook will both inform and inspire!

This past year was full of challenges, surprises and successes for our band. In many areas of our program, we saw growth and signs that the program is only going to continue to thrive. As of this writing, we are looking forward to some wonderful opportunities for the coming year, such as football games, parades, band festivals and an exciting trip in the spring! Also, for the coming year, we would like to welcome back the following staff to our band family: Assistants Mr. Devin Householder, Mr. Greg Becker, Mr. Kevin Newton, Miss Katrina Levendoski, and percussion instructor Mr. Matt Hladio. We also welcome back our auxiliary coaches Melissa Jones (Belles) and Emily Gregory (Guard), and we welcome our new wind instructors Emily Zbrzezny and Bobby Jarsulic!

This year, I continue in my commitment to developing student leadership, mentoring and tutoring. We have such wonderful potential in these areas, and I would like to see our students reach even higher levels of success through these programs. I am honored to be your Band Director and am looking forward to a great year!

The following forms are enclosed and need to be returned ASAP:

1. Band Handbook sign-off (last page of handbook)
2. Medical Form
3. Student Information form
4. Band Booster Fees
5. Band Booster Student Boutique
6. Band Instrument Loan Contract (to be filled out by all students using a school instrument)