



Decorah Band Department

100 E. Claiborne Dr.
Decorah, Ia 52101
563-382-3643 ext. 117

Dedicated to Excellence in Arts Education

January 15, 2009

Dear Student,

Congratulations on being accepted to the Tri-State Middle School Honor Band. You are part of a select group of musicians from Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Since this is a one day only (March 7th) honor band, it is important that you take the time to learn your part before the first rehearsal. Please take this music to your lesson and have your instructor help you with it. There will be auditions for chair placement within sections. This will be over your music only; there will be NO SCALES asked. Please find and read the rehearsal guides included with your music.

Your music is on loan from various sources and must be returned in good condition. Use only a pencil to mark your parts and turn the music in to us at the end of the concert **in the envelope** in which it was received. You will need a pencil, your music, a music stand (PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME ON IT!!!), your instrument (percussion - bring snare drum sticks and mallets and a snare drum if you play it) and dress clothes to change into for the concert.

The gym will be everyone's homeroom for the entire day. We will have changing rooms available. Concert time is 6:30 pm in the Decorah High School Auditorium. Concert admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. We also provide a \$10 pass for families. We will also have CD recordings available for purchase (\$10.00) again this year. Please find enclosed the order blank for Honor Band T-Shirts and CD's. Orders must be received a week before the festival to be guaranteed a shirt. CD's may be ordered prior and during the festival.

Our Band Boosters will serve meals and concessions at the afternoon breaks. You need to pre-register with your director, \$5.00 lunch and \$5.00 dinner. Lunch is pizza, veggies, fruit, ice cream bar, and milk. Dinner is spaghetti and meatballs, garlic toast, green beans, applesauce, cookie, and milk.

Please determine if your school or student will pay these fees BEFORE you attend the festival. Please send all monies together. This is especially important if the school director is NOT attending and students are with a parent chaperone. There is a handy PARENT GUIDE included with a map to the school. For more information about the festival go to our website.

<http://www.decorahbands.com/tristate/sitemap.html>

Schedule for Tri-State Middle School Honor Band

8th BAND		7th BAND	
8:30-9:00	Arrive and Register	8:30-9:00	Arrive and Register
9:00 - 10:00	Auditions/Sectional	9:00 - 10:00	Rehearsal in Band Room
10:00-11:30	Rehearsal in Aud	10:00-11:00	Auditions/Sectional
11:30-12:30	Lunch	11:00-12:00	Rehearsal in Band Room
12:30-2:30	Rehearsal in Aud	12:00-1:00	Lunch
2:30-3:00	Mini- Concert	1:00-2:30	Rehearsal in Band Room
3:00-3:30	Break	2:30-3:00	Mini-Concert
3:30-5:00	Rehearsal in Band Room	3:00-3:30	Break
5:00	Supper	3:30-5:00	Rehearsal in Aud
6:00	Change	5:00	Supper
6:15	In seats and Tune	6:00	Change
6:30	Concert	6:15	In seats and Tune
		6:30	Concert



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Registration Invoice

(We do not accept Purchase Orders. Please use this as your billing invoice.)

PLEASE RETURN BY FEBRUARY 20, 2009

Registration and meals for _____
(school name as you want it printed in the program)

Director(s) _____

Directors: please answer the following questions to help us plan for the festival.

Would you be willing to help serve as an auditor for chair placement and/or help run a short sectional? YES NO (you would not miss any of the activities scheduled for directors)

If so, what instrument would you prefer to audit? _____

Please determine if your school or student will pay these fees BEFORE you attend the festival. Please send all monies together. This is especially important if the school director is NOT attending and students are with a parent chaperone.

Student Registrations _____ @ \$13.00 = \$ _____

Director/Student Lunch _____ @ \$5.00 = \$ _____
(Pizza Ranch pizza, veggies, fruit, ice cream bar, and milk.)

Director/Student Dinner _____ @ \$5.00 = \$ _____
(spaghetti and meatballs, garlic toast, green beans, applesauce, cookie, and milk)
(Meals must be registered in advance.)

TOTAL payment to - Decorah Band Boosters = \$ _____

Return to: Elizabeth Fritz - Attn. Honor Band
Decorah High School
100 E. Claiborne Drive
Decorah, Ia. 52101
fax (at MS) 563.387.4052



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Dear Directors,

Thank you for the large number of applications to our annual Tri-State Middle School Honor Band. We received over 480 nominations from 50 plus schools. I know that with the quality of students involved, it will be a tremendous success. We tried to include as many students as possible from each school. There were exceptionally large numbers in most of the categories especially in 8th grade sax, flute, and percussion. We apologize for any omissions of your top students. Instrumentation was a high priority and it was not possible to select all students who were recommended.

Registration fees are now due upon receipt of these materials. Registrations should be postmarked no later than February 20th and should include your meal reservations and payment in full for all student registration fees (\$13.00). Lunch (\$5.00) and Dinner (\$5.00) along with concessions will be provided by our Boosters. Due to the constraints of the schedule we encourage you to eat at the High School. Our Boosters serve good quality food and the prices are reasonable. Concessions will be available during the afternoon break. Please determine if your school or student will pay these fees BEFORE you attend the festival. Please send all monies together. This is especially important if the school director is NOT attending and students are with a parent chaperone.

Enclosed is the schedule for the day, as well as T-shirt order blanks. (T-Shirt orders should be sent directly to me by the individual student before the festival.) Upon arrival, enter Decorah High School on the south side of the building. A registration table will be set up there for you to check in and receive any new information regarding the festival, as well as meal tickets and t-shirts. Please see the additional enclosed letter for some more specific information about activities for the directors.

The 7th Grade band will start in the band room. The 8th Grade Band will start with chair auditions/sectionals. The main gym will be the designated homeroom area for all schools. Rooms will be available for changing into dress clothes for the evening performance. Dress for the concert should be nice dress clothes. All students should bring music stands, and pencils. Percussion should bring their own mallets and sticks. Those selected to play snare should bring their own snare drum and stand.

Concert time is 6:30 pm in the Decorah High School Auditorium. Concert admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. We also provide a \$10 pass for families. Directors will be admitted to the concert free with their name tag. We will have an audio CD recording available for purchase this year for \$10.00.

Please check the spelling of the enclosed names and contact me if we have mis-spelled any names. If I've forgotten anything, please give me a call at 563-382-8427 ext. 145 (ms)or 563-382-3643 (hs). If you have email, my address is lfritz@decorah.k12.ia.us
fax# at MS 563-387-4052.

See you March 7th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth E. Fritz".

Elizabeth E. Fritz - Tri-State Honor Band chair
Decorah Community Schools

<http://www.decorahbands.com/tristate/sitemap.html>



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Honor Band T-Shirts

\$12.00 EACH

SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE, AND X-LARGE SIZES

The T-shirts are a high quality 50/50 blend which should wash well and not shrink or fade. The front design will be a contemporary music theme. The design is different each year. The shirt usually has a 2-color design.

Check our web site to see the current design.

<http://www.decorahbands.com/tristate/sitemap.html>

The shirts will be distributed at the registration desk on the day of the Honor Band. A very limited number of T-shirts will be available for purchase the day of the festival. Please place an order a week prior to the festival to be sure to get one. (XXL or larger sizes may be requested for \$15.00. Please place an order to assured the size you want.)

(return lower portion)

STUDENT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY/ZIP: _____

SCHOOL: _____ SIZE(circle one): S M L XL XXL or larger
(Adult Sizes)

_____ # of t-shirts x \$12 Each = _____ total

_____ # of t-shirts x \$15 Each (XXL or larger)= _____ total

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

make checks payable to:

Decorah Band Boosters

Mail your order directly to:

Elizabeth Fritz - ATTN: T-SHIRT ORDER

Decorah High School

100 E. Claiborne Dr.

Decorah, Ia. 52101

Hotel Accommodations:

Some of you may have students and/or parents who wish to stay overnight. I have enclosed the following information to enable this, if you wish to do so.

Heartland Inn phone - 563-382-2269
Continental Breakfast, Exercise Room, swimming pool

Super 8 Motel phone - 563-382-8771
Continental Breakfast and hot tubs

The Bluffs Inn (formerly Cliff House) phone - 563-382-8600
Swimming pool, Hot Tub, full service restaurant

Country Inn phone -563-382-9646
Continental Breakfast, swimming pool, whirlpool

Hotel Winneshiek 1-800-998-4164
104 East Water Street, Downtown Decorah

Most of these motels are located near each other, directly off State Highway 9. We have contacted all of them and when calling for reservations you should make them aware you are in town for the festival. They will accept school P.O.'s. You will need your tax exempt # if direct billing to your school.

Participating Schools

Alma Area Schools
Anamosa Middle School
Bangor Middle School
Blair-Taylor SD
Caledonia Area Public MS
Century Middle School
Clayton Ridge Middle School
Crestwood Junior High
Decorah Middle School
Don Bosco Schools
Drexler Middle School
Faribault Middle School
Fillmore Central MS
GET Schools
Janesville Consolidated School
John Adams Middle School
Kickapoo MS
La Crescent MS
Lake City High School
Lincoln Middle School
Logan MS, La Crosse, WI

Longfellow MS
Mabel-Canton Public Schools
Maquoketa MS
Melrose-Mindoro Jr. High
MFL MarMac
Nashua-Plainfield Middle School
New Hampton Middle School
North Winneshiek
Patrick Marsh MS
Postville Middle School
Ruthven-Ayrshire Community
School
Ruthven-Ayrshire Community
School
South View Middle School
South Winneshiek MS
Sparta Meadowview MS
St. Anthony MS
St. Benedict
St. Casimir's School
Stewartville MS

Sumner-Fredericksburg Middle
School
Tripoli Community School
United South Central JH
Valley Community School
Wapsie Valley
Waterloo Hoover Middle School
Waverly-Shell Rock Junior HS
West Central Comm.
West Salem MS

Schedule for Directors Tri-State Middle School Honor Band

8:30-9:00	Arrive and Register
9:00-11:00	Auditions/sectionals - Some directors will be helping audit for chair placement. This time is available for socializing and exchanging ideas over coffee/juice and rolls (also fruit and bagels!). Director's Lounge will be available in the backstage area. OR Take a Walk! Up the hill that is, to Kephart's Music Center. (opens at 9:00 AM.) Check out their specials for the festival. OR Rehearsal in Aud/Band Room- take some time to sit in and listen
11:00-12:00	Director Session I - Reading Band (Yes it's back!) We will meet in the vocal music room and organize ourselves for the day.
12:00 -1:00	LUNCH - You must buy a lunch ticket
1:15 - 2:30	Director Session II - Reading Band continued
2:30-3:00	Reading Band performance?
3:00-3:30	Break
3:30-5:00	Director Session III - Discussions?
5:00	Supper
6:30	Concert

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Press Release - Tri-State Middle School Honor Band

On Saturday, March 7th, 2009 members of the school band participated in the TRI-STATE MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR BAND. The festival was held in Decorah, Iowa and hosted by the Decorah High School Band Department.

Two bands of 135 members each rehearsed during the day and presented a concert at 6:30 pm in the DHS Auditorium. The conductors for this event were Leon Kuehner and Brian Stevens from Hampton, Iowa. Both directors have distinguished credentials in their work with school musicians.

Over 60 schools from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa participated in this honor band festival. Other activities for the students and directors included a "Mini-Concert" and specific director sessions pertaining to Middle School band issues.

The festival is supported by the Decorah Band Boosters and Kephart's Music Center, Inc. of Decorah.



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Directors: You will find extra information specific to the festival here.!

1. AGAIN THIS YEAR -When you arrive student names will be listed on the registration envelope. This will allow students to register if you are not in attendance. You must make sure that the students know if they have paid for meal tickets as we don't have specific names on who is eating. Some meal tickets will be available the day of the festival for purchase but it REALLY HELPS if you will take care of this before the festival.
2. You must purchase lunch tickets to eat at the school during the festival.
3. Students who purchase t- shirts will be listed in your registration envelope. They should go over to the t-shirt table to pick up pre-ordered shirts. There will be a few t-shirts still available for purchase at the concession stand but they should pre-order to make sure they get the size they want.
4. The homeroom for the entire day is the gym.
5. Director sessions will be held in the vocal music room. Reading Band. Bring an instrument to play.
6. We encourage you to visit Kephart's Music which is located at the top of the hill from the school on the corner of Water Street - Kephart's Music continues to be a huge supporter of the festival and music education. Please thank them!
8. AGAIN THIS YEAR! In the student music packets we have included a PARENT GUIDE to Tri-State Honor Band as well as a map to the school.

CD Recording:

We will have an audio CD recording available this year. It will be \$10.00. You will find order blanks in your materials.

You may notice the meal costs are up this year due to current economies. We have NOT raised any other prices in efforts to keep the festival as affordable as possible. Dollars are still being saved from registration fees for the commissioning 2 pieces for our 20th anniversary. More information to come on that event.



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Tri-State Honor Band CD Order Form

This order may be faxed to:
(563)-387-4052
on or before March 10th.

School Name: _____

Kephart's is my school's music store

Band Student's Name: _____

Payment Method:

_____ Check made to
Decorah Band Boosters

_____ Cash

I have ordered

_____ x \$10.00 Tri-State Honor
Band CD(s) for a total of: \$ _____

Purchaser's info if Kephart's is not
your music store:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Tri-State Honor Band CD Receipt

I have ordered _____ x \$10.00 Tri-State Honor Band CD(s) for a total of:
\$ _____.

All CD's will be delivered through the school unless otherwise indicated.



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The Parent Guide to Tri-State Honor Band

After years of hosting the festival I have decided to put together this guide for the parent who attends the festival with their student.

Festival Participation:

The chance to participate in the festival begins with the nomination process. We invite band directors to nominate deserving students to participate in the Tri-State Middle School Honor Band Festival. This event is held annually on the first Saturday of March, at Decorah High School, in Decorah, Iowa. We have had overwhelming response to the festival each year, with over 60 schools participating yearly.

There will be two bands selected. One band will be 7th grade students and the second band will be 8th grade students. Each ensemble will have 110 - 120 members. The music selected will be both standard repertoire and "new issue" material. The conductors change every year. Directors have distinguished credentials in their work with school bands.

Festival Selection:

Music is sent to the schools in mid-January to give students plenty of time to prepare. Each student receives a participation certificate and a copy of the evening program. T-shirts will be available for purchase. T-shirt orders should be received at least a week in advance to be guaranteed a shirt! The Decorah Band Boosters will provide lunch and supper on a pre-paid basis so that you (directors or parents) need not be in attendance all day. The registration cost per student is \$13.00 and is payable upon acceptance in the bands. Check with your director to see how these fees are handled. Our Band Boosters will serve meals and concessions at the afternoon breaks. You need to pre-register with your director, \$5.00 lunch and \$5.00 dinner. Lunch is pizza, veggies, fruit, ice cream bar, and milk. Dinner is spaghetti and meatballs, garlic toast, green beans, applesauce, cookie, and milk.

Please determine if your school or student will pay these fees BEFORE you attend the festival. Please send all monies together. This is especially important if the school director is NOT attending and students are with a parent chaperone. There is a map to the school on the back side of this paper. For more information about the festival go to our website.

<http://www.decorahbands.com/tristate/sitemap.html>

The day of the Festival:

We register students by school, so when checking in make sure you give us your school name first. We will have name tags, pre-paid meal tickets, and t-shirt order information for you. If you are not coming with your director it is very important to know if your fees have been paid. You will then proceed to the gym where you will put your "stuff" for the day. Depending on what grade you are in you will start with rehearsal or chair placement/sectionals.

What happens if there is bad weather? Please check the website for further information.

What can parents do during the day?

You are very welcome to sit in rehearsals! Decorah also has a vibrant downtown that is just a block away up the hill. You will find antiques, art, coffee shops, the historic Hotel Winneshiek and Opera House, and the Vesterheim Norwegian Museum, all within walking distance from the school.

Concert Information

Concert admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. We also provide a \$10 pass for families. We will also have CD recordings available for purchase (\$10.00) again this year. Please find enclosed the order blank for Honor Band T-Shirts and CD's. Orders must be received a week before the festival to be guaranteed a shirt. CD's may be ordered prior and during the festival.

Thanks for supporting your child with music! If you have additional questions contact Liz Fritz, Tri-State chair.
563-382-8427 ext 145 or 563-382-3643 ext. 117 or lfritz@decorah.k12.ia.us.