

MCCRACKEN

SYMPHONIC BAND

BEYOND THEIR YEARS

Developing a Mature Ensemble Sound in the Young Band

CHIP DE STEFANO, *clinician/conductor*

**Tuesday, December 20, 2022
2:45 PM**

**THE MIDWEST CLINIC
AN INTERNATIONAL BAND AND ORCHESTRA CONFERENCE
McCormick Place West • W183
Chicago, Illinois**

McCracken Middle School Band Program

SKOKIE, ILLINOIS

The Village of Skokie, which has almost 65,000 residents and covers 10 square miles of land, is located 16 miles northwest of downtown Chicago. Skokie's superior municipal services and management, mixed economic base, outstanding school districts, educational institutions and civic groups, national award-winning Skokie Public Library and Skokie Park District, and attractions such as the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, and Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park, make Skokie an excellent place to live. *Money* magazine named Skokie among the 80 fastest-growing suburbs in the entire nation. *Chicago* magazine continues to rank Skokie near the top in its suburban livability rating, praising the Village's schools, parks, municipal services and entertainment options. A recipient of the Governor's Hometown Award, the Village of Skokie has also received "All America City" finalist distinction from the National Civic League.

SKOKIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 73.5

Approximately 1,100 kindergarten through 8th-grade students are enrolled in Skokie School District 73.5, which has three schools: Elizabeth Meyer School (pre-kindergarten and kindergarten), John Middleton Elementary School and Oliver McCracken Middle School. Our students have ancestral origins from all over the world; more than 50 languages are spoken by households within the district and about half of students are bilingual. The district is more diverse economically, racially, religiously, linguistically, and socially than most others in the area. Our community embraces and celebrates this diversity and appreciates the opportunity children and families have to interact and form friendships with such a wide array of people.

McCracken Middle School serves a population of about 350 students. Recognized as a National School of Excellence by the Blue Ribbon School Program in 2001, McCracken students achieve not only academic success, but have a tradition of excelling in the fine and performing arts.

McCracken Middle School Symphonic Band

Currently, 190 students in grades four through eight participate in the District 73.5 Band Program, which includes Symphonic Band, Concert Band, 5th Grade Beginning Band, and 4th Grade Beginner Band. The McCracken Middle School Symphonic Band, among the elite of middle school bands in Illinois, has performed at several prestigious events in recent years, including three performances at the NAFME North-Central Conference, two performances at the CBDNA-NBA North Central Division Conference, several performances at the Illinois Music Education Association All-State Conference, and performances at the 2006 and 2013 Midwest Clinic. The Symphonic Band has made 21 appearances at the University of Illinois Superstate Concert Band Festival, being selected as the Honor Band in 2000, 2003, 2006, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019. The McCracken Band Program received the Sudler Silver Cup from the John Philip Sousa Foundation in 2006 and the National Band Association's Programs of Excellence National Award in 2015.

The success of our band program is due to the support of the administration, the parents, the community, and most importantly, to the hard work of our students.



CLINIC OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

•

DAILY ROUTINE

Purpose, Materials

•

BREATHING EXERCISES

Expanding Usable Long Capacity, Improving Flow

Jesu, meine Freude - Johann Crüger
Harmonization by J.S. Bach
(FJH Music Company)

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DEVELOPING PITCH AWARENESS

Just Intonation vs. Equal Temperament, Singing, Pitch Bends

Voller Wunder - Johann G. Ebelling
(FJH Music Company)

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RETHINKING THE MACBETH PYRAMID

How to Listen, Mini-Pyramids, Transparent Layering

Eventide - William Henry Monk
(FJH Music Company)

Additional Repertoire TBD

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PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER: INNER HEARING

Canon - Thomas Tallis
(FJH Music Company)

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FINAL THOUGHTS

McCRACKEN MIDDLE SCHOOL SYMPHONIC BAND

FLUTE

Rita Kanoon
Ari Smith

OBOE

Kaia Herning
Lettie Samuel

BASSOON

Judah Maxwell

CLARINET

Ellie Bassett
Caroline Cottrell
Yaeeta Lajin
Daniel Penning
Audrey Storck

BASS CLARINET

Elizabeth Kanoon
Jonathan Weissinger

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Maxwell Frank
Marcus Lee
Rohan Shah
Benjamin Tuchten
Jacob Wolfinger

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Julianna Chavez
Dhruv Mody

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Adam Paunovich
Ulises Rivera

CORNET

Antoni Czarkowski
Garrett Donegan
Abe Friedman
Bridget Lantry
Raphael Mangubat
Theo Miller
Sawyer Niedfeldt
Eric Renner
Asa Wormington
Gabriel Yu

HORN

Richie Valenzuela
Bella Vo

TROMBONE

Armaan Desai-Bharucha
Jack Freeman
Simon Girgis
Milo Lindholm
Timothy Pham
Sa Vo

EUPHONIUM

Sebastian Gonzalez
Melissa Lampa
Hewan Maru
Rosanna Olaveja

TUBA

Gideon Friedman
Gaba Gomez
Aviana Young

PERCUSSION

Tsion Battle
Ethan Cottrell
Elliott Diehl
Annabelle Kim
Ari Magsino
Gabriel Tolentino

McCRACKEN BAND

SKOKIE, IL

PERFORMANCES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



**OFFICIAL
PERFORMER**

**2006
2013**



**MS/JH
HONOR BAND**

**2000
2003
2006
2011
2013
2015
2017
2019**



**STATE CONFERENCE
PERFORMER**

**2001
2004
2010
2019
2023**



CBDNA
College Band Directors
National Association



**NORTH CENTRAL
CONFERENCE PERFORMER**

**2016
2022**



**BLUE RIBBON
AWARD**

2016



**NORTH CENTRAL
CONFERENCE PERFORMER**

**2001
2005
2011**



**SUDLER CUP
RECIPIENT**

2006

CHIP DE STEFANO



Chip De Stefano received both his Bachelor of Music in Trombone Performance and Master of Music Education Degrees from Northwestern University. While at Northwestern, he studied conducting with John P. Paynter, Steve Peterson, and Don Owens, trombone with Frank Crisafulli and Art Linsner, and music education with Bennett Reimer, Donald Casey, Jim Kjelland, and Peter Webster.

Mr. De Stefano is currently in his 26th year as Director of Bands at McCracken Middle School in Skokie, Illinois. Under his direction, the McCracken Middle School Symphonic Band has received first division ratings at all district and state organization contests of the Illinois Grade School Music Association (IGSMA) and has made multiple appearances at the Illinois Music Educators Association (ILMEA) All-State Conference, University of Illinois Superstate Concert Band Festival, CBDNA-NBA North Central Division Conference, and NAFME North Central Division Conference. In 2006 and 2013 the Symphonic Band received an invitation to present a concert at the Midwest Clinic: An International Band and Orchestra Conference. In December of 2006, the John Philip Sousa Foundation awarded the McCracken Symphonic Band the prestigious Sudler Silver Cup.

As a published arranger and composer, Mr. De Stefano has received commissions from the marching bands of Northwestern University, Samford University, the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, the University of Idaho and dozens of high schools from across the United States. His works have been performed on ABC's 1996 Rose Bowl Halftime Show, Live! with Regis and Kathy Lee, and WBBM News Radio 780. Mr. De Stefano's works are available from FJH Music, LudwigMasters Publications, Grand Mesa Music, Kagarice Brass Editions and DeStefanoMusic.com.

Mr. De Stefano has had chapters published in *Foundations: The Fundamental Elements for Building a Successful Middle School Band Program*, *Teaching Music Through Performance in Middle School Band*, and *Whatever Things...The Life and Teachings of John P. Paynter*. *Chorales and Beyond*, co-authored with Timothy Loest and Kevin Lepper is published by FJH Music. His professional affiliations include the Illinois Music Educators Association, Illinois Grade School Music Association, the National Band Association (Board of Directors, Middle School Representative), All-Illinois Junior Band (Board of Directors), Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and he was recently honored with membership in the American Bandmasters Association.

Mr. De Stefano is active nationally as a clinician, guest conductor, and adjudicator. He's conducted honor bands, festivals and camps in Singapore, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, and throughout Illinois. In addition, he has presented conference sessions at the Midwest Clinic (2008, 2021, 2022), ILMEA All-State Conference (2003, 2005, 2008, 2016), Iowa Bandmasters Conference (2010), Nebraska Music Educators Association State Conference (2011), New England Band Director Institute (2016), Arkansas Tech University Band Director Workshop (2013), NBA/IGSMA Band Director Workshop (2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2021), Illinois State University Band Director Workshop (2012, 2019) and DuPage County Music Clinic (2009, 2014, 2021). Mr. De Stefano is a recipient of twenty-two National Band Association Citations of Excellence. He was awarded the Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Award in 2001, the IGSMA Barbara Buehlmann Young Conductor Award in 2004, the IGSMA Cloyd Meyers Memorial Award in 2011, and the Skokie Award for Artistic Excellence in 2016.

RESOURCES

MATERIALS

Chorales and Beyond - Timothy Loest, Chip De Stefano, and Kevin Lepper (FJH Music Company)

Warmups and Beyond - Timothy Loest and Kevin Lepper (FJH Music Company)

Ensemble - Michael Pote, Kyle Young, and Andrew Brough (Fannin Music)

Foundations for Superior Performance - Jeff King and Richard Williams (Neil A. Kjos Music Company)

Bach and Before for Band - arr. David Newell (Neil A. Kjos Music Company)

16 Chorales by J.S. Bach - arr. by Mayhew Lake (G. Schirmer)

42 Chorales for Band - Philip Gordon (Bourne Company)

INTONATION TOOLS

Yamaha Harmony Director (Yamaha)

Tonal Energy - Tuner/Metronome iOS and Android App (Tonal Energy App)

The Tuning CD - Richard A. Schwartz (www.thetuningcd.com)

RELATED TEXTS

Foundations: The Fundamental Elements for Building a Successful Middle School Band Program - Kim Bain, Chip De Stefano, Rick Ghinelli, Corey Graves, Chris Grifa, Robert Herrings, Wendy Hart Higdon, Kazuhiko Tsuchiya, Heath Wolf (GIA Publications, Inc.)

The Band Whisperer: A Practical Guide to Making Beautiful Music - David Morrison (Neil A. Kjos Music Company)

The Creative Director: Alternative Rehearsal Techniques - Ed Lisk (Meredith Music)

Improving Intonation in Band and Orchestra Performance - Robert Garofalo (Meredith Music)

The Breathing Gym (Book & DVD) - Patrick Sheridan and Sam Pilafian (Focus on Music)

The Brass Gym (Book & CD) - Patrick Sheridan and Sam Pilafian (Focus on Music)

Midwest Clinic Handouts - www.midwestclinic.org

PROCEDURE FOR TUNING CHORDS

*This procedure is effective when done with and without a drone
(Harmony Director, Tonal Energy, etc...)*

1. Begin with the tubas, assuming they are on the root of the chord.
2. Add everyone who plays the root of the chord
3. Root & Fifth
4. Root, Fifth, & Third (3rd is lowered slightly in major chords, raised slightly in minor chords)
5. Root, Fifth, Thirds & Seventh (if applicable, Dominant 7th must be significantly lowered)
6. Add any additional harmonic extensions

PURE TEMPERMENT

INTERVAL	ADJUSTMENT
Major 2nd	3.9 cents higher
minor 3rd	15.6 cents higher
Major 3rd	13.7 cents lower
Perfect 4th	2.0 cents lower
Perfect 4th (as 7th in Dominant 7th Chord)	29 cents lower
Perfect 5th	2.0 cents higher
Major 6th	15.6 cents lower
minor 7th	17.6 cents higher
Major 7th	11.6 cents lower

SOLFÈGE SEQUENCES

Standard solfège patterns, alternated with chorale repetitions to help with pitch, just intonation adjustments, ear training, and student pitch awareness. Design your own patterns to assist your students with problems they are having.

Singing Exercise #1

1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1
Do	Re	Mi/Me	Fa	Sol	Fa	Mi/Me	Re	Do

Singing Exercise #2

1	2	1	3	1	4	1	5
Do	Re	Do	Mi/Me	Do	Fa	Do	Sol

5	4	5	3	5	2	5	1
Sol	Fa	Sol	Mi/Me	Sol	Re	Sol	Do

Singing Exercise #3

1	3	2	4	3	5	4
Do	Mi/Me	Re	Fa	Mi/Me	Sol	Fa

5	3	4	2	3	2	1
Sol	Mi/Me	Fa	Re	Mi/Me	Re	Do

At this point students are ready for more difficult exercises. Try to trick them (at times), but don't throw too much at them at once. When things go awry, bring them back home (tonic) and teach them how to hear the interval they missed.

For example, if the students are having trouble hearing from 5 to 2:

1	3	5	3	1	5	1	2	5	2	1
Do	Mi/Me	Sol	Mi/Me	Do	Sol	Do	Re	Sol	Re	Do

The possibilities are endless.

Two Part Example

Part One	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1
Part Two	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2	1

A little each day goes a long way!!!

SKOKIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 73.5 MUSIC FACULTY

Chip De Stefano, *Director of Bands*

Cesar Mendoza, *Associate Director of Bands*

Amy Keipert, *Director of Choirs*

Jennifer Page, *Director of Orchestras (D219)*

Angela Sylvester, *General Music*

SKOKIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 73.5 BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Bushra Amiwala, *Secretary*

Maureen Jacob, *Secretary Pro Tem*

Louis Mercer

Dr. LaTasha Nelson

Victoria Wolfinger

SKOKIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 73.5 ADMINISTRATION

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Nancy Ariola, *Principal, Oliver McCracken Middle School*

Marty Behm, *Assistant Principal, Oliver McCracken Middle School*

Priya Amin, *Assistant Principal, Oliver McCracken Middle School*

Nikki Tammaru, *Principal, John Middleton Elementary School*

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Richard McDonald, *Chief Information Officer*

SPECIAL THANKS:

McCracken Middle School School Administration, Faculty & Staff

Aleksandra Davidovac and Kelly Hutchins *District 73.5 Staff*

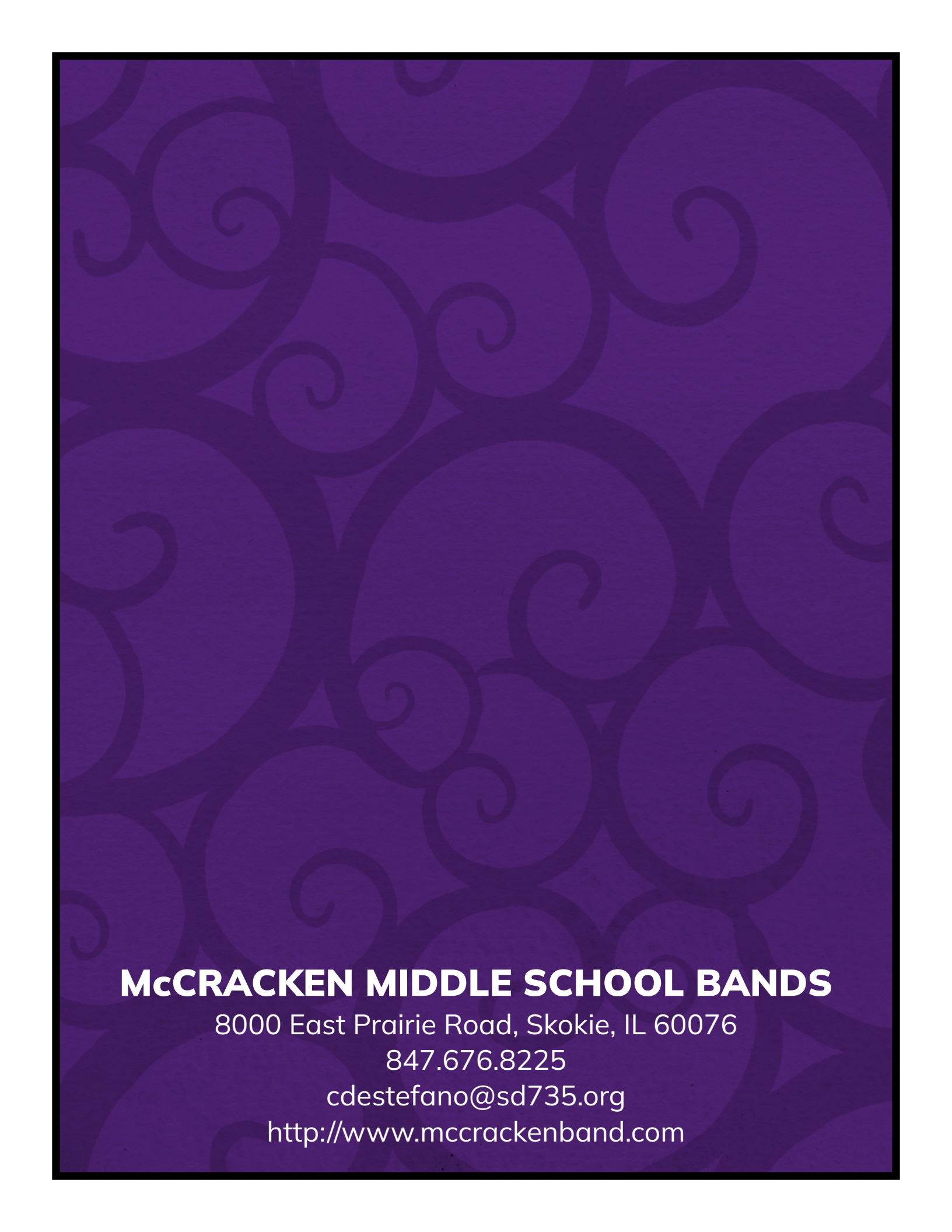
Sue Dentzer and Roxi Sides *McCracken Middle School Administrative Assistants*

Nicole Derrig, Karen Hayes, and Laura Le *District Business Office Staff*

Alex Hernandez, Ninos Khnanisho and Derek Lowry *District Tech Department*

Alma Araujo, Alvin Carter, Chris Cieplinski, Jose Rodriguez, & Jorge Santiago *District Custodians*

and last, but definitely not least: Thank you to my wife Susan and kids Brian, Kristen, Clara and Joseph for their love, patience, and support.



McCRACKEN MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

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