

VOL. 2 | NOVEMBER 2019

# LINN-MAR BANDS NEWSLETTER



Inspire Learning.  
Unlock Potential.  
**Empower Achievement.**

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## Director Spotlight

**Mr. Kevin Makinster**

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES:

- **December 7:** NEIBA Honor Band (Oelwein High School)
- **December 9:** Holiday Concert I (7:00pm, HS Auditorium)
- **December 10:** Holiday Concert II (7:00pm, HS Auditorium)
- **December 12:** Chamber n' Jazz (6:00, HS Auditorium) and Holiday Concert III (7:15, HS Auditorium)
- **December 16:** Holiday Concert IV (7:00pm, HS Auditorium)
- **January 4:** NEIBA Honor Jazz Band (Kennedy High School)
- **January 25:** Java n' Jazz (6:30 & 8:00, High School Band Rooms)
- **January 27:** IHSMA State Jazz Band Festival (Jefferson HS)
- **January 28:** OR 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band concert (7:00, HS Aud)
- **January 30:** EX 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band concert (7:00, HS Aud)
- **February 6:** 5th Grade Winter Concert (6:15, HS Aud)

# EXCELSIOR BANDS

All of Excelsior's concert and jazz bands enjoyed great performances at their first concerts of the school year! Excelsior's 6th, 7th, and 8th grade bands will perform their next concert on Thursday, January 30 at 7:00 pm in the Linn-Mar Auditorium. All 7th and 8th graders will participate in Linn-Mar's Middle School Solo Festival on Thursday, February 13. The jazz bands will perform at the Coe Jazz Summit on Thursday, February 27 and at their winter concert on Monday, March 2.

Congratulations to the following Excelsior 8th grade band members on their selection to the Northeast Iowa Bandmasters Association Honor Band! These students will join other outstanding musicians from around northeast Iowa in Oelwein for a day of rehearsals and an afternoon performance on Saturday, December 7:

- Dylan Ascher, *trombone*
- Ethan Crawford, *tuba*
- Bryce Deutmeyer, *trumpet*
- Danica Kallas, *horn*
- Luke Mueggenberg, *percussion*
- Trace Mullins, *alto sax*
- Parker Nicks, *tuba*
- Alyssa Niemeier, *clarinet*
- Karli Sletteland, *horn*
- Natalia Vorobtsov, *clarinet*

Excelsior 7th and 8th grade band students will have the opportunity to form holiday ensembles the month of December and perform in the Excelsior Rotunda and at the Villages of Marion care center. All ensembles will rehearse from 7 to 7:45 am.

**Woodwinds:** Rehearse 12/3, 12/10, 12/17 at 7:00 am  
Perform 12/17 in Rotunda and 12/19 at Villages of Marion

**Percussion:** Rehearse 12/4, 12/11, 12/18 at 7:00 am  
Perform 12/18 in Rotunda and 12/19 at Villages of Marion

**Brass:** Rehearse 12/5, 12/12, 12/19 at 7:00 am  
Perform 12/19 in Rotunda and at Villages of Marion



## OAK RIDGE BANDS

The Oak Ridge Bands have been busy this year with our 7th and 8th graders first concert in October and then our 6th graders first concert on November 19th! Currently we are starting our Holiday Ensembles which will perform at Hilltop Manor and Terrance Glenn retirement villages as well as before school in December.

Congratulations to the following students for their individual accolades:

### VERNON MS HONOR JAZZ COMBO

- Jace Witham, *alto saxophone*
- Evan Shanley, *baritone saxophone*
- Sutra Iyer, *trumpet*
- Maddox Elliott, *trombone*
- Emily Greiner, *bass*
- Kaleb Wesselink, *bass*
- Zack Kendrick, *drum set*

### ALL-IOWA HONOR JAZZ BAND

- Lucas Rabe, *trombone*

### NEIBA HONOR BAND

- Shea Southwood, *flute*
- Lucie Scott, *flute*
- Evan Shanley, *clarinet*
- Graedyn Morrissey, *bassoon*
- Jace Witham, *alto saxophone*
- Aiden Klaren, *tenor saxophone*
- Lucas Rabe, *trombone*
- Gabriel Gates, *tuba*
- Emily Greiner, *percussion*
- Kyle Langston, *percussion*





## BAND GIFT IDEAS

Looking for a birthday or holiday gift idea for your student? Give them a gift that will help them grow musically! Here are some practical and useful gifts for the band musician (brands are only recommendations of each product):

### Buy a tickets to a local concert

The best way for children to gain a love of music is to experience it live. Check out Orchestra Iowa, the Paramount Theater (Big Bad Voodoo Daddy on Dec. 2nd and the Nutcracker on Dec. 7th), Theatre Cedar Rapids, Hancher Auditorium, The Englert Theatre, Gallagher Bluedorn, etc. Eastern Iowa has many great performances throughout the year!

### Music Bag

To store music and accessories.

### Get an app for their phone

Try any of these: Tonal Energy Tuner, Metronome Beats, BandMate Chromatic Tuner, iReal Pro, Music Tutor.

### Smart Music Subscription

Play-along accompanist for your computer or phone. Thousands of play-along accompaniments (classical, jazz and pop). For details go to [www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com).

### Purchase a play-a-long book

Whether your student loves music from Star Wars, Harry Potter, Broadway musicals or big band jazz, there are several play-a-long books that make practicing fun. Ask your director before purchasing a book to ensure that it is the right level for your student.

### Music Stand

Folding music stand to hold music and be able to practice at home.

*“Music expresses that  
which cannot be said  
and on which it is  
impossible to be silent.”  
— Victor Hugo*



# BAND GIFT IDEAS BY INSTRUMENT:

## Flute

- Thumbport (allows student to have hand in correct position for better playing)
- Silk Swab to clean out flute
- Flute Stand (student can keep flute put together while practicing)
- Protec or Accent Case

## Oboe

- Fox reed case (holds 3 reeds and allows for optimal drying)
- Leshner Medium Oboe Reeds
- Oboe Stand (student can keep oboe put together while practicing)
- Silk swab to clean out oboe

## Bassoon

- Fox reed case (holds 3 reeds and allows for optimal drying)
- Jones Medium Bassoon Reeds (or if your child takes privately, extra reeds from his/her teacher)
- Silk Swab to clean out bassoon

## Clarinet

- Boandé Inverted ligature (allows reed to vibrate more freely than with conventional metal ligatures. Improves tone, response and intonation)
- Reeds (check with your student to see what strength and brand he/she is using)
- Thumbrest (only works for clarinets that do not have a hook for neck straps)
- Rico Reed Storage Case (holds 8 reeds and allows for optimal drying)
- Clarinet Stand (student can keep clarinet put together while practicing)
- Protec or Accent Case

## Bass Clarinet

- D'Addario Select Jazz Unfiled reeds (strength 3 medium) for Tenor Sax
- Rico Reed Storage Case (holds 8 reeds and allows for optimal drying)
- Mouthpiece Pouch - ProTech or Neo Tech (protects mouthpiece and keeps it clean)

## Percussion

- Stick Bag (helps percussionists take ownership over their sticks and mallets. Start with a pair of marimba mallets, timpani mallets and xylo mallets. Ask your director for specific recommendations)
- Metronome - Boss DB30
- Pitch Pipe - Kratt Tuner
- Tenor practice pad (for aspiring high school drumline tenor players)
- Brushes (for drumset players)

## Saxophone

- Rovner ligature - dark or light is fine (allows reed to vibrate more freely than with conventional metal ligatures. Improves tone, response and intonation)
- La Voz Medium or D'Addario Select Jazz Unfiled reeds (strength 3 medium)
- Rico Reed Storage Case (holds 8 reeds and allows for optimal drying)
- Rico Neck strap (has less elasticity than the Neotech which helps to have the saxophone in the correct position)
- Saxophone Stand (student can keep clarinet put together while practicing)
- Mouthpiece Pouch (for bari or tenor) - ProTech or Neo Tech (protects mouthpiece and keeps it clean)

## Trumpet

- Valve Oil (Biank Pro, Blue Juice, or West Music)
- Straight Mute (Dennis Wick, Bach, or Tom Crown) Valve Cover
- Trumpet Stand (student can keep trumpet put together while practicing)

## Horn

- Rotor Oil
- Valve Cover
- Mouthpiece Pouch - ProTech or NeoTech (protects mouthpiece and keeps it clean)

## Trombone

- Trombone Slide-O- Mix
- Straight Mute (Dennis Wick, Bach, or Tom Crown)
- Trombone Stand (student can keep trombone put together while practicing)

## Tuba

- Valve Oil (Biank Pro, Blue Juice, or West Music)
- Mouthpiece Pouch - ProTech or NeoTech (protects mouthpiece and keeps it clean)





# DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT:

## MR. KEVIN MAKINSTER

Kevin Makinster is currently the Director of Fifth Grade Bands at Linn-Mar Community Schools, a position he has held since 2000. In his 35th year of teaching, he began his career in 1985, spending seven years as Band Director at Midland High School in Wyoming, Iowa before coming to Linn-Mar where he served as Associate Director of High School Bands for eight years before becoming the 5th Grade director. Mr. Makinster, a Linn-Mar alum, is a 1985 graduate of UNI (BME), and received his Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Coe College. He has served as President of the North East Iowa Bandmasters Association and was awarded the "Phillip Sehmann Excellence in Teaching Award" from NEIBA in 2006. Kevin is active in Eastern Iowa as a guest conductor and adjudicator/clinician. He has served as a guest conductor for the Marion, 5 Seasons, Coe College, NEIBA MS and SEIBA Elementary Honor Bands, as well as several High School and Middle School conference Honor Bands. He is also an adjudicator for NEIBA Large Group, Jazz Band, and Solo Contests, as well as the Cedar Rapids City Contest. He has served as a clinician/adjudicator at High School Marching Band contests in Marion, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and Bloomfield and performs regularly on the Trumpet in the Cedar Rapids area. In addition, he teaches Instrumental Methods/Techniques classes at Mount Mercy University and assists with the MMU Concert Band. He has also played French Horn, Clarinet and Percussion in the MMU Concert Band where area Band Directors receive Graduate/Recertification credit to improve their teaching by playing secondary instruments in a Concert Band setting, as well as playing Trumpet in their Jazz Band.



## 5TH GRADE BANDS

The 5th Grade Band students were very excited to give their first performance on Nov. 19th at the "Eastside" and "Westside" Parade of Bands Concerts. The students did a fantastic job and we are very proud of them. They are now preparing for their Winter Concert on Feb. 6th, where all 196 students will combine to perform! Students are also working hard in their lessons to learn new skills and improve their tone and technique. Students and parents are reminded of the importance of "at home practice". We want you to continue in the Band program through Middle School and High School, and we know that one of the most important factor in that happening is to PRACTICE regularly!





# HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

The High School Band Program is thrilled to have so many outstanding students representing our community at state-level and district-level events. Last week we had thirteen students participating in the Iowa All-State Music Festival in Ames. Students earn their spots through a very rigorous audition process that takes place in October. Our students spent two-and-a-half days rehearsing with and getting to know many other outstanding musicians from all over the state of Iowa! The Festival culminated with the All-State Concert on Saturday night. Be sure to check out the concert at 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving night on IPTV. In addition to our thirteen All-State Musicians (and five alternates!), we are proud of the nineteen students selected to represent Linn-Mar at the Northeast Iowa Bandmasters Association (NEIBA) Honor Band in Oelwein on Saturday, December 7. Students will rehearse their music all day and the High School Honor Band will present its concert at 7:00 p.m. in the Oelwein High School Gymnasium. Congratulations to the following outstanding musicians:

## ALL-STATE PARTICIPANTS

- Lea Banks, *clarinet*
- Octavia Barbulescu, *flute*
- Aleah Dupree, *horn*
- Nancy Herschberger, *bassoon*
- Anna Kelly, *trumpet*
- Madison Kuhlman, *clarinet*
- Hanna Langley, *flute*
- Madeline Nuss, *clarinet*
- Subhika Rao, *flute*
- Patricia Redington, *clarinet*
- Jaslyn Riherd, *clarinet*
- Lucas Sennett, *tuba*
- Jared Stumpf, *horn*



## NEIBA HONOR BAND

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kayla Affolter, <i>clarinet</i></li><li>• Scott Bellows, <i>trombone</i></li><li>• Syler Bushlack, <i>tuba</i></li><li>• Braeden Dupree, <i>trombone</i></li><li>• Moossa Hamad, <i>horn</i></li><li>• Peter Kamp, <i>trumpet</i></li><li>• Prem Kulkarni, <i>flute</i></li><li>• Aadarsh Kumar, <i>flute</i></li><li>• Madison Marcus, <i>clarinet</i></li><li>• Samantha Mersch, <i>bassoon</i></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alex Miller, <i>bass clarinet</i></li><li>• Kimmy Moore, <i>percussion</i></li><li>• Arjun Palaniappan, <i>percussion</i></li><li>• James Qualben, <i>trumpet</i></li><li>• Owen Schlesinger, <i>bassoon</i></li><li>• Samantha Solis, <i>clarinet</i></li><li>• Kaiya Taylor, <i>clarinet</i></li><li>• Abbey Vezina, <i>alto saxophone</i></li><li>• Sam Vezina, <i>tenor saxophone</i></li></ul> |
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## ALL-STATE ALTERNATES

- Scott Bellows, *trombone*
- Aadarsh Kumar, *flute*
- Abbey Vezina, *alto saxophone*
- Sam Vezina, *tenor saxophone*
- Justin Yem, *alto saxophone*



## JAZZ BANDS

The annual Jazz-a-thon fundraiser for the jazz band program was held on Friday, November 8th in the South Commons of the High School. This kick-off for the jazz band season was a successful and fun event! Jazz band students entertained the audience throughout the night, forming a 105 piece jazz band in addition to performances by each of our four jazz bands. Funds were raised through donations, company matching, concession sales, song requests, and raffle baskets. We were thrilled to have raised \$8,295.50! Money raised from this event will support the jazz band program throughout the year. Thank you to everyone that helped out or donated to this cause!