

TO: All Middle School Band Directors  
FROM: John Lychner  
DATE: June 3, 2009  
SUBJECT: The Joy of Middle School Band—Kids, Music, Teachers  
A Fall Conference on Middle School Band Music

Dear Friends:

I'm writing to invite you and your students to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Conference on Middle School Band Music, "The Joy of Middle School Band—Kids, Music, Teachers."

For a full day on Tuesday, October 27, 2009, we will be celebrating Middle School Band Music and Douglas Akey has agreed to join us as our guest composer and clinician. Similar to our annual Spring Conference on Wind and Percussion Music, this conference is intended to give middle school students and their teachers a chance to interact with a living composer. In addition, the students will have the unique opportunity to play not only in an honor band with a famous composer conducting, but also in an ensemble combining the honor band and the University Concert Band.

As yet another way to celebrate and honor middle school bands, the organizing committee, which includes middle school band directors, wanted to include a noteworthy guest middle school ensemble as part of this event. We are honored that the Galesburg-Augusta Middle School Band, directed by Jan Edgerton, will be performing for this conference.

We hope that you will join us for this very special day. Nominations and all correspondence will go through you, the teacher, via the WMU Bands website, and the music and final instructions will be sent to you via U.S. Mail. We will not be contacting individual students. It is important that they come to this event chaperoned by someone approved by your school. They should not be dropped off for the day, as we cannot be responsible for them.

There will be a variety of opportunities for you to interact with the students, with other teachers, and with Douglas Akey. In addition, Jim Cochran from Shattinger Music Company will join us this year. He will be doing a session for band directors on middle school band music and will have a wide variety of middle school band music available on site for you to peruse and purchase. Jim is one of the most knowledgeable people in the world when it comes to band literature. We are truly lucky that he will be on site to share his knowledge with us. We have designed this event to be a viable professional development opportunity for you. You will be able to receive CEUs and/or a Certificate of Attendance. More specific information about this aspect of the conference will be included in future correspondence.

Please refer to the links on the WMU Bands Web site <[www.wmich.edu/universitybands](http://www.wmich.edu/universitybands)> for further information on how to nominate your students, the schedule of events, professional development opportunities, and much more. The site will be updated throughout the summer. So, check it often.

Feel free to pass this invitation on to any band director(s) who might be interested.

If you have questions, contact me directly or leave a message on the WMU Bands Web site.

Hope to see you in October!

J. Lychner

John A. Lychner, Ph.D.  
School of Music  
Western Michigan University  
1903 W. Michigan Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5434  
john.lychner@wmich.edu  
269-387-4628