



# EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

MR. CHRISTOPHER TRASKAL, DIRECTOR

MRS. LAWANDA PARKER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

June 8, 2018

Dear Wind Ensemble Members and Parents:

After being nominated by both our District and State MSBOA Band Festival adjudicators this past Spring, the Wind Ensemble students and I decided to formally apply to be a featured performer at the annual Michigan Music Conference (MMC). The Michigan Music Conference is the highest honor a high school band can receive in the State of Michigan and will include an audience made up of instrumental and choir directors, university professors and students, administrators, and friends and family.

As you hopefully have already heard, we are thrilled and honored to have been officially selected to perform at the Conference!! The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of the potential commitments a conference performance entails, and what the trip to Grand Rapids could entail. In addition to our regularly schedule events, **please block out the dates below and avoid scheduling vacations, etc.** as it is of the upmost importance that we have 100% of the membership available for each commitment. Please remember that this is the highest honor in the field of music and it's important we put forth our very best efforts towards a wonderful performance!!

January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Most likely, a Saturday-morning clinic/rehearsal
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Send-off Concert for the MMC @ Eisenhower HS
January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Performance date at the MMC (3:00pm to 3:45pm)

Likely, there will be other after school commitments (rehearsals, sectionals, etc.) to prepare for this event. This depends on our guest conductors/artists performing with us and what their schedules can accommodate. Furthermore, in preparations for the MMC performance, we will be bringing in extra clinicians to work with the band during the school day/half days/etc. In any event, I will do my best to get all dates to the ensemble member as early as possible to limit conflicts.

The conference is annually held at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Our performance will be taking place in the beautiful DeVos Performance Hall, a 2400-seat performing arts theatre that is home to The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Grand Rapids Ballet Company, Broadway Theatre Guild, and Opera Grand Rapids – a truly special experience for our students!

Because this will be an overnight event, there will be a minimal cost per student associated with the trip. We are estimating a price of about \$155-\$180 to help defray the cost of the travel, food, and hotel lodging needed to pull off this exciting event. Student will tentatively be leaving Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> after exams. Please note that this is a total guestimate and the actual cost could be less or more. The amazing Eisenhower Instrumental Music Boosters will be covering most of the costs associated with the actual performance and prep (programs, music, etc.). More information will come your way as details become available from MMC.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. I can be reached over the summer by email at [Christopher.Traskal@uticak12.org](mailto:Christopher.Traskal@uticak12.org). You can also leave a message on my office phone, (586)797-1438 but it may take me a while to respond.

Musically yours,

Christopher M. Traskal  
Instrumental Music Director  
Eisenhower High School  
[Christopher.Traskal@UticaK12.org](mailto:Christopher.Traskal@UticaK12.org)