

Unit 5 Music Parents Meeting Minutes – August 25, 2025

Normal West High School – IMC

BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Present: Beth Marsh, President
Present: Lesley Gully, Vice-President
Present: Angela DeJaynes, Secretary
Present: Andrew Walter, Co-Treasurer
Not Present: Kelli Halsey, Co-Treasurer

GENERAL ATTENDANCE:

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by the U5MP President Beth Marsh.

TREASURER REPORTS:

- Treasurers are continuing to ask directors to fill out and complete their own deposit slips and drop off at the bank to save treasurers time and number of trips
 - Directors should be sure to notate their program name on the deposit slip
- Audit for last year is under way
 - There is requirement to complete annually
 - Cost of audit this year is \$8500
 - Bank account is currently at \$5800
- U5MP can receive direct donations
- Kroger Community Rewards have been set up for U5MP to earn funds
 - If you link your Kroger card, when used, 0.05% will be donated back to U5MP with each use
 - Donations are deposited quarterly
- Behind on Sale Tax exemption status
 - Waiting to hear back from the state as a request they had sent back to U5MP had gotten lost in the mail
- Continued general ask for any connections to a CPA who can complete an audit

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

*****CHIDDIX JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL *****

Chiddix Junior High Band:

Tricia Ogdon (Director)

- The Charger Band is off to a great start. 6th - 8th started playing today, our 5th grade intro night is Thursday, and the official first day of 5th grade is next week!
- We have confirmed our fundraising dates with Show Me Dough “Butter Braids” and Gobena Coffee for mid-November.

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Chiddix Junior High Orchestra:

Jillian Meszar (Director) **NO REPORT**

Chiddix Junior High Choir:

Jack Mellen (Director)

- We are starting out the year well. First week is going smoothly. Just going over the syllabus and establishing procedures and routines. Especially for the 6th graders.
- Numbers are looking pretty good. More than 85 in 6th grade 34 in 8th grade and about 50 in 7th grade, however, most of those students are also in band/orchestra so only about 15 5-day choir students in 6th grade for the moment but I am working to recruit a few more and I expect to get at least a few more new 5-day kids.
- I have about 80 percent of the classes' music picked out.
- We have begun discussing ILMEA, recording the Practice tracks now.
- We have begun discussing Honors Choir Auditions
- Picked out class jobs.
- I made a website for CJHS Choir that will be my homebase for parents from now on. I'm very excited about that.
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*****EVANS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL *****

Evans Junior High Band:

Krista Beddigs (Director)

- Hello all! EJHS bands have been busy getting started with the new year! 6th grade will start gearing up for the U5MP Extravaganza at NCHS. Our 7th & 8th graders are getting ready for our October Spooktacular!
- 5th grade band is starting off strong this year with 72 registered band members!
- Thank you U5MP for all your support!

Evans Junior High Orchestra:

Elizabeth Fontana (Director)

- First day of instruments was TODAY! Almost everyone remembered, which was amazing! We tuned and played some scales :)
- 5th graders start next Tuesday. I'm excited to get started with them!
- Upcoming dates are:
 - October 9 - 5th and 8th grade
 - November 10 - 6th and 7th grade at the extravaganza

Evans Junior High Choir:

Julia Beer (Director) **NO REPORT**

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*******KINGSLEY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL *******

Kingsley Junior High Band:

Tyler Harr (Director) **NO REPORT**

Kingsley Junior High Orchestra:

Daria VanDeLoo (Director) **NO REPORT**

Kingsley Junior High Choir:

Katie Winchester (Director)

- We've had a great start to the school year! Our numbers are healthy and the students are enthusiastic about digging into our music.
- Dine to Donate: The KJHS music department is hosting a dine to donate at Portillo's on Thursday, October 2nd. from 5-8pm.
- ILMEA: We are beginning our rehearsals this week on Thursday after school! 6th Grade ILMEA has yet to announce anything and is TBD until we receive that information. They start later, so this isn't a huge deal but isn't ideal.
- Honor choir: Last year was the first year we've had an honor choir since 2020, and it was a huge success! Honor choir auditions will be held sometime in October.
- Music Extravaganza: 7th and 8th grade choirs will prepare music to perform at the Music Extravaganza. Thank you to music parents for your efforts to host this event!

*******PARKSIDE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL *******

Parkside Junior High Band

Riley Odehnal (Director) **NO REPORT**

Parkside Junior High Orchestra:

Angie Stalter (Director) **NO REPORT**

Parkside Junior High Choir:

Melissa Jennings (Director)

- As I am starting my second year, the PJHS choir program is continuing to build consistency in expectations and procedures.
- Every student in chorus has come ready to sing and learn new music, and we look forward to this new school year!
- One addition to our program this year is the PJHS Honor Chorus, which will be starting up once ILMEA auditions conclude later this quarter.
- We will also be holding a combined PJHS Music 7th grade concert on October 29th, which will involve the band, choir, and orchestra. It's going to be a great year!

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*******NORMAL COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL *******

Normal Community High School Band:

Paul Carter (Director)

- 155 Students this year enrolled in band. We had so many students enrolled in band this year that we did not have enough folders and had to order new ones.
- Planning a trip for Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony students to Nashville over spring break.
- This Friday 8/29 we have our first home football which is also Senior Recognition night. We have 26 senior marching ironmen this year. We will hold a small reception for the seniors and their parents after the game.

Normal Community High School Orchestra:

Melissa Siebenthal (Director) NO REPORT

Normal Community High School Choir:

Ben Luginbuhl (Director)

- We're excited to get a start to the year in NCHS choirs! We're growing again post COVID and are nearing 200 singers in the choir program. Two big events that we're super excited about this year:
 - Madrigals are celebrating our 25th anniversary of shows, Dec. 4-6. We'll be celebrating by having an all-alumni audience on our Saturday matinee - a "sing-along" madrigal show!
 - The Choir and Orchestra programs will be traveling to New York City May 30-June 4, 2026. The choir will be performing at St. John the Divine Cathedral and at the observation deck at One World Trade Center, aka the "Freedom Tower." We have a kickoff meeting after Open House on Tuesday, Aug. 26.
- I'm looking forward to a great year in NCHS Choirs - thanks so much for your support!

*******NORMAL COMMUNITY WEST HIGH SCHOOL *******

Normal West High School Band:

Ryan Budzinski (Director)

- The Normal West Bands are eager to start the 2025-2026 school year!
- The concert season opens with a chamber concert featuring the Chamber Winds and Percussion Ensemble, with the KJHS Flobinet Choir as special guests on Monday, September 22 at the Ewing Cultural Center.
- All bands perform in concerts scheduled for the month of November.
- The Wind Ensemble will perform in the Los Angeles Sounds of Summer music festival in the home of the L.A. Philharmonic in June.

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Normal West High School Orchestra:

Kim Boehm (Director) **NO REPORT**

Normal West High School Choir:

Sara Williams (Director) **NO REPORT**

*****NORMAL MARCHING BAND *****

Normal Marching Band (NMB)

Multiple Directors (Ryan Budzinski, Paul Carter)

- The Normal Marching Band represented our community as the Honor Band of the Illinois State Fair Parade earlier this month.
- They will perform in the Bloomington Labor Day Parade
- Their competitive season opens at Washington Community High School on Saturday, September 6.
- The Normal Marching Band Invitational will be held at IWU on Saturday, September 27.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Communications**
 - New parent email will be sent to directors to introduce U5MP, ask for volunteers and include a form that can be completed for ways parents can be involved
 - Will include asks for specific skill sets
 - Directors can expect to see this evening
 - New website: unit5musicparents.com
 - Old website will direct users to the new site
 - Navigation features:
 - Music Programs: will feature directors for all programs
 - Ask for directors to send in new and up to date pictures
 - Will include links to all socials/websites/newsletters
 - Directors should send this information to be included
 - Will have a direct link for donations
 - Can use all different forms of payment
 - Huge shoutout and thanks to former president Josh Jensen for his work in setting this up and building this page
 - The board also wants to be more visible in schools/events (back to school nights, concerts, etc) to help spread the word about what this organization does, recruit for more parent involvements, etc

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- **Music Extravaganza**
 - Looking to incorporate a food option again this year (Nelson's catering, A-Z, Annie's Eats are options)
 - No longer need volunteer positions of "back stage", both schools have students helping with this
 - More to come as group is getting details together
- **Volunteers and Fundraising**
 - In an effort to help close the gap on the large audit costs, an additional fundraiser is being planned
 - Looking to host a Music Bingo event in the spring
 - Working with Twin City Trivia to host this
 - Game typically involves 72 songs that will correspond to spots on bingo cards
 - Participants will recognize the song and mark the spot on their board
 - Will be a family friendly event
 - Date is still TBD, but will be at one of the two high schools
 - Will include both small and large prizes based on different board configurations (shapes, blackout, etc)
 - Will be looking for donation prizes from community partners and parents
 - Awareness of both high school Jazz Nights that occur around this time of year was also shared, we want to ensure there is not competition for community partner support
 - Hoping to form a Fundraising Committee to help plan
- Acknowledgement and thanks to the Unit 5 District Board
 - Secondary departments have put in several budget request and have seen them approved!
 - Includes:
 - New sound system/wireless mic at Normal West
 - Bass strings at Normal Community
 - Bari saxophones at both high schools
 - Reminder that we have a fierce advocate of the music programs in new board member Patrick Manieri

Josh Jensen motioned to adjourn the meeting; Kim Boehm seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 7:55 PM.
The next meeting will be held Monday, September 22 at 7:00 PM in the NWHS IMC.

ATTENDANCE:

- Tricia Ogden – Director, CJHS Band
- Josh Jensen – Kingsley Choir
- Kacey Marhsall – CJHS Band
- Ellen McCarthy – NCHS Band
- Mellissa Jennings – Director, PJHS Choir

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- Kim Boehm – Director, NWHS Orchestra
- Liz Fontana – Director, EJHS Orchestra
- Ben Luginbuhl – Director, NCHS Choir
- Andrew Walter – EJHS Band, Board member
- Cassie Hart – CJHS Band
- Tess Szczepaniak – KJHS Choir
- Renee Weddington – CJHS Band
- Beatriz Aarcra – CJHS Orchestra
- Julia Beer – Director, EJHS Choir
- Mistey Borst – KJHS Orchestra
- Debbie Linderg – NWHS
- Terry Lindberg – NWHS
- Jack Mellen – CJHS Choir
- Beth Marsh – Board Member
- Lesley Gully – Board Member
- Angela DeJaynes - Board Member

2025 - 2026 Program Attendance

Program	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Apr	May
Chiddix								
Band	X							
Choir	X							
Orchestra	X							
Evans								
Band	X							
Choir	X							
Orchestra	X							
Kingsley								
Band								
Choir	X							
Orchestra	X							
Parkside								
Band								
Choir	X							
Orchestra								
Normal Comm								
Band	X							
Choir	X							
Orchestra								
Normal West								
Band								
Choir								
Orchestra	X							

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Name	Email	Name of Student's Jr. High or High School	Name of Director you are representing	PROGRAM(S): Choir / Band / Orchestra
Angela DeJaynes	Angelak83@hotmail.com	PJHS	Bolton	Band
Tricia Ogdon	ogdont1@units.org	CJHS	Self	Band
Josh Jensen	joshjens@gmail.com	KJHS	WINCHESTER	CHoir
Kacey Marshall	Kmarshall@gmail.com	CJHS	Ogden	BAND
Ellen McCarthy	ncbhsbandboard@gmail.com	NCHS	Carter	Band
Melissa Jennings	jenninnm@gmail.com	PJHS	self	Choir
Kim Boekum	boekumk@units.org	West	Self	Orchestra
Liz Fontana	FONTANAER@units.org	ESHS	Self	Orchestra
Ben Luginbuhl	luginb@units.org	NCHS	Self	Choir
Andrew Walter	andrewwalter77@gmail.com	EJHS	Beddige	Band
Cassie Hart	CASSIE_HART@frontier.com	CJHS	Ogden	Band
TESS SZCZEPANIAK	+tsz222@gmail.com	KJHS	WINCHESTER HARR	Choir + Band
Kenee' Weddington	Weddington@units.org	CJHS / Normal	Ogden / Carter	Band / Marching
Beatriz Garcia	osanabet@hotmail.com	CJHS		Orchestra
Julia Beer	beerjr@units.org	EJHS	Myself	Choir
Misty Barst	misty-barst@yahoo.com	KJHS	D. Vandebos	Orchestra
Allyson Lindberg	dtlindber@stn.edu	NORMAL WEST		
Tenley Lindberg				
Jackie Mollen	mollenj@units.org	CJHS	M E E E E E	Choir