

May 26, 2009

Dear Mr. Smith and members and parents of the Clarksville Middle School Wind Ensemble,

I recently read in the Howard County Times of your wonderful accomplishment, having been invited to the 2009 Midwest Band Clinic. As the article noted, you will be carrying quite a large torch for both your county and your state, since it has been over thirty years since the last Maryland band performed at Midwest. I'm sure you will be up to the challenge!

I write to you as both a former music instructor and a current parent of a middle school musician. I taught music and marching for over ten years at Herndon High School, whose Wind Ensemble has performed twice at Midwest. Although I did not accompany the students on these trips, I know full well the amount of rehearsal that went into their application and eventual performance. I also understand the hours of promotion, fundraising and planning put in by the students and the members of the band parent organization. Although it may require some sacrifice, the effort will seem a minor cost for the excitement and anticipation that you will feel from now until December, not to mention the feeling that the students will have when they step onto the stage to perform.

You bring great pride to your school, the Howard County music program, and your community at large. Hopefully, your impressive achievement will be one for which the other bands in Howard County will strive in the coming years.

Please accept this donation with my heartfelt congratulations and my hope that your trip to Chicago furthers the students' love of music and inspires them to continue their lifelong journey in the arts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marshall Kohen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M" and "K".

Marshall Kohen
Ellicott City