

# Heid Music Congratulates the October School of the Month

## Appleton East High School Band led by Margaret LaFleur

Appleton East High School Band has flourished under the direction of Margaret LaFleur. There are now over 200 students, approximately one in seven members of the student body, involved in the band program. Considering just eight years ago that number only around 100 students, this program has made great strides.

Appleton East Band members take great pride in their participation in various celebrations within the community. That includes special performances for veterans, city award functions, the Children's Week Parade in Appleton and the Special Olympics. Members of the band's drumline were even invited to play along with the famous Cool Waters Band.

Appleton East Band has twice been nominated by elected officials and asked to represent the state of Wisconsin for celebrations in Washington, D.C. Appleton East Band members proudly represented the state with 200 students strong. East has also collaborated with Appleton West in providing European performance trips for band members.

Appleton East Band is part of an amazing system, in which three high schools collaborate each year for honors performance concerts or clinics. The entire district, all elementary and middle schools, host a music marathon fundraiser each spring, which culminates in all three high schools celebrating with their pep band tunes.

"Being involved with Mrs. LaFleur and the Appleton East Band has been a very rewarding and positive experience for our children," said Tom and Kelly Vander Velden. "The Appleton East band is a family of its own, looking out for one another, making sure all participants are involved and working together to perform." The Vander Veldens go on to say, "As part of the Appleton East Band, our children have experienced some once in a lifetime opportunities. That includes representing the state of Wisconsin by marching in the National Memorial Day and the 4th of July parades in Washington, D.C., playing concerts at multiple venues in Italy, and being involved in Appleton community events such as parades, Special Olympics, Appleton East sporting events and the Band Together Music Marathon. Mrs. LaFleur's band program has been a great experience for our kids as well as us as parents, since we get to enjoy the results of their continued hard work, practice, and dedication to making great music! We love hearing all their performances and are very proud, and look forward to many more to come."

