

# Welcome Back 2024-25

**JULIE PATERSON**  
SBOB PRESIDENT

**DR. MICAH EWING**  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Life without music. Can you even imagine it? Thankfully we are part of a district with amazing staff and opportunities for students. The SBOB officers for the 2024-25 school year have been in contact throughout the summer to discuss how we can help creatively and effectively support our instrumental music department.

All families who have a student playing an instrument within the schools is a part of SBOB. While the officers and trustees do numerous jobs behind the scenes, it's the participation of our greater community that makes the magic happen. I look forward to meeting many family members at our activities while we enjoy one another and raise funds for band and orchestra programs at Sycamore!!

As the president of SBOB this year, my hope is to share my love and appreciation of music by supporting the music department. Their needs are varied and in the years I've been a part of this community, they have produced amazing results. Being a teacher at Symmes Elementary, it's been a treat to see former students grow as individuals through the orchestra or band. My oldest daughter, Evie, is a senior and plays the trumpet in band and marching band, as well as cymbals with the Winter Drumline. My youngest daughter, Ella, is a freshman and a cello player. My husband and I met as members in the Michigan State University marching band. Being surrounded by music and musicians is an integral part of my life!

I would like to extend an invitation to each family member to be an active part within the Sycamore music community. Please know that all are welcome at our monthly trustee meetings. Ideas are welcome, and we would love to hear from a wide variety of viewpoints with the goal of improving our support for the instrumental music program within Sycamore Schools.

Welcome to the start of the 2024-25 school year!

As we begin the 24-25 school year, I would like to welcome students, families, and teachers back for another great year of music making! Making music with a school ensemble is one of the best things a student can possibly do. Instrumental music students in band and orchestra simultaneously engage visual, aural, and kinesthetic learning modalities when they make music, meaning they are using their eyes, ears, and bodies working together at the same time every day during class. It is exciting to witness the growth of students from 5th grade through 12th as they expand their technical skills and expressive abilities on their instruments year upon year. We are so proud of what our students achieve and grateful to be part of their experience. We look forward to seeing you at our concerts throughout the school year and encourage you to volunteer at our fundraising events. Sycamore Band and Orchestra Boosters provide both financial and workpower support to make musical experiences more enriching for all students in band or orchestra grades 5-12. All parents of orchestra or band students of any grade are automatically members of SBOB. Please consider volunteering at one of our three big events: Tag Day, Craft Show, and Pancake Day. Have a great school year!

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- TAG DAY: Sep. 7th
- CRAFT SHOW: Nov. 16th
- PANCAKE DAY - Mar. 1st

## Tag Day - Sat, 9/7



Tag Day, a Sycamore community-wide tradition since 1958, brings our orchestra and band students to your door to spread the word about the Sycamore Instrumental Music Program. In this yearly kickstart to the SBOB fundraising season, students are able to work together canvassing our district streets with the supervision of a parent volunteer to collect funds that go 100% towards our curricular and extracurricular music programs.

In 2023, we collected \$34,000 in donations amongst 400+ student volunteers and 70+ parent volunteers. Students love the opportunity to meet and connect with other musician peers at the very beginning of the year!

### SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!

Adult Drivers



Other Volunteers



FOR MORE VISIT: [WWW.SBOB.ORG](http://WWW.SBOB.ORG)

## OUR STAFF

**Micah Ewing** - High School Orchestras, 8th Grade Orchestra, District Music Supervisor

**Jim Blankenship** - 7th and 8th Grade Bands\*

**Dustin Goes** - High School Concert Bands\*, Marching Band\*, Pep Band\*

**Tim Graelty** - 5th and 6th Grade Bands\*, Marching Band

**Stefanie Kennedy** - 5th and 6th Grade Orchestras

**Kacey Kopack** - Color Guard\*

**Ryan Lamb** - Percussion Specialist grades 5-12\* , Winter Percussion\*, Marching Band

**Sean Lewis** - 7th and 8th Grade Orchestras\*

**Tanner Otto** - 5th and 6th Grade Orchestras\*, Sycamore Advanced Strings

**Angela Santangelo** - High School Orchestras\*, 7th Grade Orchestra

**David Swift** - High School Concert Band III

**Jordan VonWahlde** - Brass Specialist grades 5-12\*, Jazz Band\*, Marching Band

\* Denotes lead teacher

## STAFF HIGHLIGHT: MR. DUSTIN GOES



Mr. Dustin Goes joins our instrumental music department as the new Band Director. He received his BM in Music Education from Miami University and ME in Instructional Design from Western Governors University. Previously, Mr. Goes has worked at Williamsburg Local Schools & Hamilton City Schools. His main instrument is trombone, and he actively performs in the Cincinnati Wind Band and is a composer and arranger for marching bands including Sycamore.

Mr. Goes decided to pursue music education captivated by the ability of music to connect and communicate and wanted to develop community and connection with students.

He lives with his wife, Samantha Goes who is an advisor for Music Department at Miami University and private flute teacher, and their cat Lenny who is named after Leonard Bernstein.

Welcome to Sycamore, Mr. Goes!



**LOOK FOR US:**



INSTAGRAM @SYCAMORE\_SBOB

FACEBOOK SYCAMORE BAND & ORCHESTRA BOOSTERS - SBOB PARENTS GROUP

## MARCHING BAND SENIOR HIGHLIGHTS





### Marching Band Competition Dates:

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- September 28
- October 5
- October 19
- October 26 (tentative State)



### Marching Band Seniors:

Sam Barton, Anya Bates, Christopher Caldwell, Sean Dolan, Joseph Feledy, Evan Friedland, Reuben Grote, Evan Hoge, Simon Huth, Erez Kadosh, Maya Kaplan, Noah Lin, Keith May, Sophie McCoy, Annie Miller, William Myers, Isabella Nazarov, Evie Paterson, Kaleb Pitcher, David Praveen, Nicole Ramos Espejo, Marian Rose, Kristen Schutte, Hayden Spyrou, Kelly Tang, Philip Towbin, Kelly Whapham, Benjamin Yeomans

Color Guard: Amina Janybek, Evie Langham, Renee Tang

### EVIE PATERSON

Instrument: Trumpet with Concert & Marching Bands; Cymbal with Winter Guard

Most Memorable Moment: Honestly there's too many to pick just one. It's also really hard to think of a specific one, but I think that my very first time performing at a football game was one of them. I was feeling really nervous because I had never performed for a crowd like that, but a senior at the time helped to calm my nerves and reassured me that it'll be super fun, and that he was also really nervous his first time performance. It really helped me to know that I wasn't the only one who felt like that and it helped me get over my nerves.

Which music program has had the biggest impact on you? Tell us about it. Marching band has had a huge impact on my life. Thinking about going to high school always freaked me out when I was in middle school, but marching band helped me make a bunch of new friends and helped me come out of my shell. Going into high school knowing people was really helpful because I didn't feel that alone or out of place on my first day.

Advice for Underclassmen: Don't let anyone tell you that band is lame. It's genuinely one of the best activities at our school, and it is so much fun. There's a lot of support for our band and people really love it. There will always be people who think that what we do is weird, but it seriously isn't. It's awesome.

### KALEB PITCHER

Instrument: Bass drum 5/percussion with Concert & Marching Bands, and Winter Drumline.

Most Memorable Moment: Watching every show being drawn to life. It always starts out hard, but as you keep pushing I feel more and more accomplished and then to even get 7th in the world after creating one of these shows was just amazing.

Which music program has had the biggest impact on you? Tell us about it. Marching Band. It has forced me to push through uncomfortable moments and really taught me discipline, as well as just giving me a huge family that I enjoy being around.

Advice for Underclassmen: Participate in as much as you can. Don't give up when times get hard or when it feels like there is no reward at the beginning of the season. I love seeing the show come together, and by the end you will feel so accomplished when it's all completed.

### SOPHIE MCCOY

Instrument: Percussion in Concert Band and I March Bass Drum in the battery for Marching Band & Winter Drumline.

Most Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment from my years in the music program is when the winter drumline made WGI Finals in 2024 for the first time since 2019. We placed the highest that Sycamore had ever placed and it was a testament of how hard we had worked and our dedication towards the activity. Getting to perform in front of a large audience of that size was incredibly rewarding and allowed us to have one last amazing performance as a group.

Which music program has had the biggest impact on you? Tell us about it. Marching band has had the biggest impact on me in high school. Marching band has introduced me to a huge group of people that have become my best friends. My marching band friends have become like family to me, and I am forever thankful I joined marching band. Marching band has also taught me so much about how to work hard and persevere through challenges and how to work together to achieve a common goal.

Advice for Underclassmen: Talk to everyone. Introduce yourself to people. You never know who is going to become your best friends. Reach out to others, your section, and others in the band are there for each other and communication is key in music. Build a community, it'll last for generations of band kids that come after you.