



HOME OF THE BLUE DEVILS

DAVENPORT CENTRAL

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DAVENPORT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, DAVENPORT, IOWA

Music Department Newsletter

TOP BAND JOB FILLED

The nation wide search is over, interviews and post interviews are complete, documentation has been submitted, references have been checked, DVD's and CD's re-viewed, Central High School's band program has a new leader. (For details see "The Search Process")



Mr. Kendall Carrier, from Bradenton, Florida, will be the next Director of Band Activities at Central High School. A director of wide experience (For details see "Who is the New Director"), the selection of Carrier ended a month long search directed by Central Principal Tim Wernentin and a carefully selected committee of administrators, music faculty, and four representatives of Central's Band and Orchestra Parent Organization.

"Not just anyone can run a band program like we have at Central," said music department head Fred Morden. "We had to work very

hard to find the kind of candidates we wanted for Central." According to Mr. Carrier's written resume, he has had experience in several school settings, mostly secondary teaching positions in the Midwest and Florida. He is a jazz bassist who has "gigged" around the central Florida region while maintaining a heavy teaching load. Carrier has also been selected to direct two Illinois high School District Jazz Festivals, and was elected as the District IV Jazz President for the Illinois Music Educators Association.

When it comes to teaching philosophy, Kendall Carrier believes that mutual responsibility plays an important role in the success of any band. "If the director has high expectations along with the knowledge and motivational skills to help students achieve a high level of excellence, the group will succeed," Carrier wrote. He sees

growth as both a mutual and long term process for both students and teachers. He wrote, "If this (high level of excellence) continues, the director along with the students will learn the joys of life long learning."

"Excellence" is a familiar term to both the Marching "Blue Devils" and the entire CHS music department. Is Kendall Carrier the right man to "continue...the high level of excellence" that has become a tradition at Central? We'll just have to wait and see...and hear.

MEET THE DIRECTORS Informational Meeting

ALL 9-12 band members and their parents.

JULY 26th (Weds) at 7pm

Place: CHS Band Room.

See a demonstration of their work with other groups. Q&A Session. Be there!

ASSISTANT JOB IN DELICATE STAGE

From California to Florida, band directors submitted applications for both the top and assistant band jobs. Two applicants have earned doctorate degrees and several have had college/university level experience. But, as we know all too well at Central, creating and maintaining good working relationships can be as important as solid academic credentials.

Early on in the process, Mr.

Wernentin expressed the desire to share the decision of an Assistant Director with the new Director of Bands. "Both directors must work cooperatively and productively," said the Central Principal. "We want a good match between the band directors and our music department. Finding the right one is the challenge."

(At this printing, no assistant has been hired.)

MEET THE DIRECTORS Mtg	7pm, July 26
MB Seniors Working Lunch	Noon, July 31
FIRST DAY of BAND CAMP	(Tues) August 1
Vocal Clinic for All State	August
Show Choir Camp	August 14-16
Ice Cream Social	6p, August 16
Freshmen Music Orient.	August 24

The Search Process

“We will accept nothing less than the best for this band program,” stated Central Principal Tim Wernentin. “We owe it to our tradition and our students.”

With that mandate, the search process began. Ads in national papers were purchased, notices in Internet job sites were posted, and a calling and emailing campaign began that included job announcements in every college and university in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Missouri. Jo Souder Vandecar, long time band supporter, former band parent, and the chairman of the Central Centennial Reunion Celebration said, “It was an intense few days, but we knew it was important to hit it hard at the beginning. Heck, we



wanted good people to choose from.”

Kendall Carrier was selected from a field of over twenty candidates, including conductors with doctorate degrees, college professors, and current directors of small and large programs from, literally, coast to coast.

The committee interviewed candidates that traveled to Davenport from as far away as California, the Dakotas, Missouri, and Florida as well as our neighboring State of Illinois.

Once the committee and candidates were assembled, interviewees were asked to answer spe-

cific questions about their educational and professional experience. They discussed their educational and musical philosophies and were required to provide examples of their work with marching band, concert band, and jazz ensemble.

Each interviewee was given a tour of the music facilities and shown uniforms, equipment, and office space.

The interview was divided into two sections. The first part included the entire group. The second part allowed parents to view DVD’s and listen to CD’s of each candidate while the Central professional staff focused on professional and musical issues such as grading policies, discipline, and musical repertoire.

Once the interviews were completed, Kendall Carrier was a clear favorite.

Who is the New Director?

Education:

BA Monmouth College
Master’s Degree work at
VanderCook College
Illinois State University
Boston University

Recent Experience

Booker HS for Perf. Arts
Lakewood Ranch HS

Braden River Middle School
Electa Lee Middle School for the Arts

Professional Experience

Drill Writer
BOA Judge
Low Brass and Elec. Bass

Awards

Teacher of the Year 1990, 4, 6,9

Director of Merit

Downbeat Musicfest Jazz Finals
14th BOA Florida Regionals
“Superior” for Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Wind Ensembles

Professional Affiliations

Florida Band Masters Assoc.
International Assoc. of Jazz Ed.
Central States Judges Assoc.

What Happens Now?

The search committee must finish the job of assembling the team of directors. The directors will need to create a schedule of rehearsals, distribute uniforms, instruments, and music. But, WHAT music? What will the band play this year?

The directors must create a

show, write the marching drill, arrange the music, and prepare enough copies of instructions to teach it all to the band which walks in the door on August 1st. THAT’S TWO WEEKS. If the Carrier team first sits at their office desks at Central on July 24th as planned, how will they prepare for the arrival of the band? Unshaken, Carrier had an answer, “We’ve

already done a lot of the preparation. We have the music ready, we’ve been working out scheduling issues with Mr. Morden and Mr. Wernentin. I’m not saying it will be easy, but I’m confident we can do the job. This is an experienced and hard working band with dedicated student leaders. It’s all here, we just have to start it up and do what we do.”