



Dear Students and Parents

I am honored and excited to serve as the new Director of Bands at Duluth High School. I would like to thank the Band Booster Officers and Administration at Duluth for making me feel so welcome in the community. Everyone I have spoken to from the parents to the administration to Mr. Thompson have all told me how wonderful the students in the Duluth program are and I am anxious for us to get to know each other!

As for me, I have spent the last year completing my coursework on my doctorate in music education while in residence at the University of Southern Mississippi. Before starting my degree, I was the Assistant Director for 5 years and then Head Band Director at McEachern High School in Cobb County for 12 years. Before being at McEachern I taught for 5 years as both a middle school and high school band in Enterprise, Alabama. In my time as a Head Band Director we traveled to London, England and Dublin, Ireland to march in parades, we were selected to play at UGA's JanFest, the GMEA state convention, and the National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis and frequently placed among the top competitive marching bands in the southeast. Just like my determination to work hard to earn my doctorate, I push band programs to excel and reach the goals they set. I look forward to bringing my experience and enthusiasm to Duluth to help you reach your goals as well.

My goal is to help you achieve high standards in music performance, help develop your love of music, and most importantly, have you be part of a program that teaches you life lessons and creates friendships that will be with you always. The band family is a strong and important part of your lives and it is important to me to uphold your traditions while moving the program forward. I look forward to learning more about you, the program, and being part of the family.

Band camp is around the corner and I know you have many questions about what a new director and a new year will bring. I will continue to update you with information as the days go by. I cannot wait to meet you and your families so we have set up an open house for us to meet each other. My wife and baby daughter Maddy will be in the bandroom July 9 from 6-7:30pm so we can do just that. I look forward to working with you and am excited to get started!

Sonny Petway

Director of Bands, Duluth High School