



EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER • 3600 - 52ND STREET • KENOSHA, WI 53144 • 653-6300 January 28, 2008

For further information:

Office of the Superintendent
of Schools

262/653-6320

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**51ST ANNUAL BAND-O-RAMA TO FEATURE OVER 1,700
STUDENT MUSICIANS**

The 51st presentation of the Kenosha Unified School District's annual Band-O-Rama on Sat., Feb. 2 and Sun., Feb. 3 will showcase over 1,700 students from 36 KUSD schools. General admission is \$5 and tickets may be purchased in the KUSD Department of Fine Arts at the Educational Support Center, 3600-52nd Street (653-6388). Tickets may be picked up between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. The two programs are identical, so the general public is asked to please purchase tickets for only one performance and be seated by 7:20 p.m. on Saturday or 1:50 p.m. on Sunday. If tickets are available, they will be sold at the door beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday and 1:00 p.m. on Sunday.

The guest conductor for this year's festival is James Ripley, Ph.D., Music Department Chairperson and Director of Instrumental Music Activities at Carthage College. At Carthage, Ripley conducts the Wind Orchestra and Concert Band, is head of the music education program, and teaches classes in conducting, teaching methods and orchestration. Prior to his appointment at Carthage, Ripley served as Assistant Professor of Conducting and Ensembles at the Eastman School of Music, where he was the Associate Conductor of the Eastman Wind Ensemble and Wind Orchestra, and conductor of the Symphonic Wind Ensemble at the River Campus of the University of Rochester. In addition to his duties at Carthage College, Ripley also serves as Conductor and Music Director of the Sakuyo Wind Orchestra at Sakuyo University in Kurashiki, Japan. He also maintains an active schedule as guest clinician and conductor, with engagements throughout the United States, Canada and Japan. Ripley will be working with the students of Kenosha Unified, visiting each of the middle schools and high schools in preparation of the 2008 Band-O-Rama.

The Band-O-Rama program will open with the combined middle school and high school bands under the direction of Ripley, performing Ron Nelson's "Allemande from Courtly Airs and Dances." This opening selection will be followed by the massed bands performing "The Star Spangled Banner", with presentation of the national colors by the Color Guards of the Rambler

Band and The Band of the Black Watch. The program continues with selections by the combined Elementary Beginner Band, Sixth Grade Cadet Band and combined Middle School Concert Bands, all under the direction of the District's band staff. Ripley will be conducting the combined Middle School Symphonic Bands, the combined High School Concert Bands and the combined High School Symphonic Bands. The Kenosha Band Boosters will also assist with the program. The Band Boosters will recognize several individuals, businesses and community organizations for their exceptional service in support of the Kenosha Unified School Districts school music program. The concert will conclude with John Philip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever", featuring the over 1,700 elementary, middle school and high school band students as well as a special flag pageantry provided by the color guards of the Rambler Band and the Band of the BlackWatch.

Participating directors and their schools are Paul Taylor, Bradford High School; Keith Robinson, Indian Trail Academy; Louis Covelli and Kenneth Wiele, Tremper High School; John Nepper, Bullen Middle School, Kenosha Technology Enhanced Curriculum & Harborside Academy; Leslie Cook, Dimensions of Learning Academy; Katie Plovnich, Kenosha Technology Enhanced Curriculum; Kathryn Ripley, Lance Middle School; Jeremy Kriedeman, Lincoln Middle School; Kristie Kruse, Mahone Middle School; Karl Mueller, McKinley Middle School; Michael Monk, Washington Middle School; and Elementary Directors, Kathryn Thorson and John Whyte. Robert Wells, Ph.D., Coordinator of Fine Arts for the Kenosha Unified School District, will serve as Master of Ceremonies. For additional information contact Wells at 653-6388 or rwells@kUSD.edu.

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