

INTRODUCING OUR NEW



BAND DIRECTOR

Hello, my name is Jeff Krum, and I'm excited to be your new band director at Berkshire and Groves. I'm 33, am married to my beautiful wife Janice (she's a music teacher too), and have two young children: Ellorie (three) and Simon (three months). I love hockey, swimming, boating, kayaking, biking, drumming, cooking, reading, and playing with my kids (I've also been known to take down any and all opponents on the Wii). I grew up in Algonac just northeast of Metro Detroit but spent a lot of time at Grandma's house at 12 Mile and Inkster, so this part of Oakland County isn't brand new to me. I earned my undergraduate degree at Michigan State University and my graduate degree at VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. I've been teaching for seven years and have spent the last five up north in Manton, a small town southeast of Traverse City. I was fortunate enough to do some great things with the Manton Bands and look forward to bigger and better things with you in Birmingham.

Our long-term goal together is to become *exemplary*. I love that word. Think about what it means. We will work to become the example that other bands measure themselves by. That's better than just "good" or even "great". Exemplary. My promise to you is that I will give our students every tool they need to reach their potential as young musicians. I will ensure that every day, students walk out of rehearsal feeling as though we accomplished something meaningful together. Plainly, band isn't fun if we don't sound good; working together, we will sound *incredible*. That sounds fun to me.

I remember when I was in high school, and we lost our band director. I remember the feelings I had when the new band director came. I remember it was tough. I expect that many of you will have similar feelings. I understand that and would expect that. It will take some time to get to know each other. However, I will give *everything* I've got to help you be awesome, and I'll expect you to do the same.

I can't wait to meet all of you. Everyone, and I really mean *everyone* I've met in Birmingham has been wonderful. It truly is a special place, and I'm so honored to be here with you. I'm eager to start making music! Let's do it!