

Dawn Forsythe, Director of Bands

Dawn Forsythe is the Director of Bands at Jefferson Traditional Middle School (1996-present). She is currently in her 28th year of teaching Band. While teaching high school, she had taken the John Adams Marching Band (1996-2010) to six different appearances in the Open Class ISSMA Regional Marching Band Competition earning Gold ratings. Under her leadership at John Adams, the Jazz Ensemble won honor band status two times and multiple soloist and section awards at the Purdue Jazz Festival as well as the Symphonic band receiving ISSMA gold honors. She also led the Eagle Marching Band to Disney World in Florida three times and New York one time during her tenure during Spring Break. Dawn left John Adams in 2010 to work full time at Jefferson because of an increased enrollment of band students. At Jefferson in 2013, she started a Jazz Ensemble class that is now playing at the level of many high schools in the area. This Jazz Group has performed at various locations around the community and received honors at the Plymouth Jazz Festival in 2015. The Jefferson Cadet and Concert Bands won ISSMA Gold for the first time in school history in 2017 and the ISSMA All Band Award in 2018. She has been nominated multiple times for the Quinlan & Fabish Outstanding Music Educator Award. Dawn Forsythe was awarded Jefferson Teacher of the Year in 2018 as well as the 2018 SBCSC Honors Group Top Ten Teacher of the Year.

Dawn is a native of Granger, Indiana and graduated from Penn High School. She received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from Northern Illinois University in 1991 and a Masters in Music from Indiana University in 1999. She is a member of IAJE (International Association of Jazz Educators) IAJE (Indiana Association of Jazz Educators) IBA (Indiana Bandmasters Association) and the IMEA (Indiana Music Educators Association). Dawn performs in many local groups with other educators and professionals playing clarinet and or Saxophone such as the Elkhart Municipal Band, Truth in Jazz, Twin Cities Concert Band, Lake Effect Jazz Band and St. Joseph Municipal Band. In her spare time, she enjoys time spent with her husband Jeff, and two boys, Thomas and Christian. The Forsythe family enjoys swimming and boating in the summer, attending Chicago Bears football games and snowmobiling in the winter. Dawn also volunteers and is involved in many of the boy's school classes and after school activities.

