



## ABOUT THE PIONEER BANDS

The Pioneer Band Program is made up of four major and distinct performing ensembles with various other opportunities for students to play as part of smaller ensembles:

**VARSITY BAND**—Members of the Varsity Band work on developing their musical skills within their instrument family of brass or woodwinds. The ensemble comes together as a complete band several times a year to further develop their group skills and to participate at public concerts.

**CONCERT BAND**— Students in the Concert Band have demonstrated an advanced level of musical ability. The ensemble concentrates on concert performance throughout the year, participating in all regular concerts and festivals. The Concert Band also works on marching fundamentals in the fall, joining the regular Marching Band on the field at the Homecoming Game.

**SYMPHONY BAND**—Musicians in the Symphony Band consistently achieve superior levels of performance. In the fall, the Symphony Band serves as THE MARCHING BAND and performs at home football games. The remainder of the year is focused on concert rehearsals, preparing the ensemble for adjudication at band festivals, performance at public concerts, and often tours.

**JAZZ BAND**—Students in this ensemble study and rehearse a variety of jazz styles, including classic arrangements and improvisation. The Jazz Band presents several concerts throughout the year.

**AUDITIONS**—Participation in the Pioneer Bands is by audition only. All incoming freshmen audition for placement in the Pioneer Bands at their middle school in the Spring. Chair placement in the Pioneer Bands is determined by auditions in the Fall Semester. Audition music is provided by Mr. Leach.

## THE DIRECTORS



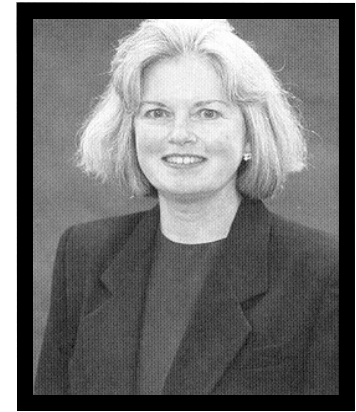
**DAVID A. LEACH**  
DIRECTOR OF BANDS

Born and raised in Ann Arbor and a proud graduate of Huron High School, **David A. Leach** has served as Director of Bands at Pioneer High School since 2002. He received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Music Education at Eastern Michigan University and studied trumpet with Professor Carter Eggers, conducting with Professor Russell Reed and Dr. Max Plank, and attended master classes in conducting with Professor Elizabeth A. H. Green.

He began his teaching career at Ypsilanti High School and spent fourteen years there before coming to Ann Arbor. Mr. Leach has served on the executive board of the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's District XII as Secretary and Vice-President of Adjudication and has been a member of the organization since 1988. He is a member of the Music Educators National Conference. He is a member of the First United Methodist Church, where he is a member of the Music Committee. Mr. Leach has been included in Who's Who Among America's Teachers three times, a listing of the best teachers in America selected by their students.

In 2000 the University of Michigan chapter of the national music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia honored Mr. Leach with the Scott Pendleton Memorial Award for outstanding achievement in music education. In 1999, 2001, 2002, and 2005 he was nominated for Disney's American Teacher Award.

Mr. Leach is the 2005-06 Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District XII Teacher of the Year. He is a proud member of the 2006 National GRAMMY Signature School Award-winning Pioneer Music Department the top high school music program in the nation.



**NANCY R. WARING**  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF BANDS

**Nancy Waring** has worked with the bands at Pioneer High School since 1992. She has helped to produce the high level of performances for which the bands are known at music festivals and performances here in Michigan as well as Orlando, Chicago, Boston, New York, Virginia Beach, Myrtle Beach, Toronto, Orlando, and Beijing and Tianjin, China.

During her tenure the Pioneer High School Music Department has been chosen two times by the Grammy Foundation as a Grammy Signature School (2001, 2003) and two times as a Grammy Signature School Gold (2004, 2005). Ms. Waring is included in the ninth edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers, a listing of the best teachers in America selected by their students.

Ms. Waring's teachers include Roy Ernst, Larry Teal, Joseph Mariano, Keith Bryan, and Elizabeth A. H. Green. She is a graduate of The University of Michigan School of Music where she received a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education (1971) and a Master of Music degree in Flute Performance (1972). She has performed as principal flutist and soloist with several orchestras in southeast Michigan. Before her appointment at Pioneer High School she was substitute flutist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. At present she is the flutist with the Intrada Woodwind Quintet and freelances with area orchestras when time permits.

Ms. Waring has taught flute on the faculties of the University of Toledo and the Interlochen Arts Academy. She has maintained a private flute studio in the Ann Arbor area for over thirty years. Ms. Waring also wrote the proposal for, developed the course structure and content for, and teaches the Music Theory and Technology course at Pioneer High School.