



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPT. SAPULPA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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ALEX CLAUSSEN
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Department Secretary

Gateway Music Festivals
c/o Mr. Dave Thielman
P.O. Box 1165
Monticello, MN 55362

Dear Dave & Staff,

11/27/06

The Sapulpa HS Marching Band has just gotten home from participating in the Waikiki Holiday Parade. Our experience was truly amazing. Jake Peppers did a great job of organizing the event and I really appreciate the tenacity and sincerity he showed when he invited our band to participate nearly two years ago.

The Gateway Music Festivals staff is absolutely wonderful to work with. Every time I had a question or need, it was met with sincere kindness and enthusiasm. The Gateway staff is very professional and was always willing to listen. Nearly everyone I have met on staff has helped us at least once during the planning stages. Lindsey Wold was our tour manager and she was incredible! I rarely needed to ask questions during our tour because she communicated so effectively and planned every detail so well. Lindsey was calm in high pressure situations and always expressed a very warm sentiment. Our students were treated with utmost respect and professionalism throughout our entire experience.

Many students and parents felt our performance at the *Battleship USS Missouri* was the sole event that helped our students truly understand the gravity of the attack on Pearl Harbor nearly 65 years ago. In addition, we adopted *USS California* survivor and Oklahoma resident William "Bill" McCrory to travel with us and participate in the parade. Our students responded incredibly well to Mr. McCrory and many commented that they dedicated their own personal performance at Pearl Harbor to him. It was an honor for us to represent the state of Oklahoma and the *Battleship USS Oklahoma*.

I enjoyed seeing my staff, students, and parents have such a great time experiencing the best Oahu has to offer. The Waikiki Holiday Parade was well organized, the crowd was very friendly and extremely respectful towards Mr. McCrory and our band. I could not have pulled off a trip of this magnitude without the help of Gateway Music Festivals. Your tour company is first class in every category and I look forward to a long business relationship for years to come. Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Alex Claussen
Instrumental Music Coordinator
Sapulpa Public Schools