



November 17, 2021

Caledonia Community Schools Community:

It is with deep sadness that we inform you about a recent loss to our school community. On Saturday, November 13th, Mr. David Sowerby, beloved orchestra teacher at Kraft Meadows and Duncan Lake, passed away. Mr. Sowerby spent 16 years at Caledonia Community Schools teaching orchestra, coaching numerous sports, and was instrumental in helping build our fine arts program over the years.

“At a time in life where kids struggle to know who they even are and what they want to be, Mr Sowerby helped middle schoolers learn to express themselves through their stringed instruments,” noted Elizabeth Fanco, CCS parent. “When my kids had those big, early-teen-years emotions and no words to express them, I'd often hear them practicing the same songs over and over again in their room. Mr Sowerby taught them to strive for excellence through music in a world largely out of their control, and to have fun while they were doing it.”

The impact Mr. Sowerby had on our students is immeasurable. “He helped me find my true love for music and I will never forget the jokes and fun we had in his classroom. Those memories will last a lifetime, and I'll miss him every day for that. Thank you Mr. Sowerby for sharing your love, humor, and thoughtfulness with the world. Thank you for being an amazing teacher and an even more amazing friend.” - Alexander Le, 2021 CHS graduate.

Not only will his passing affect our students, but his presence will be missed by his colleagues as well. “David leaves a legacy that goes beyond that of his three beautiful children. Hundreds, if not thousands of kids, many now adults, have the ability to play a string instrument because of his passion for orchestra. David did everything he loved at 110%. Whether it was hockey, tennis, riding one of his many bikes, cheering his kids on at their sporting activities, or battling one illness after another with his wife at his side, he was always ALL in. Teaching orchestra was no different, he LOVED it.” - Trish Lulich, 6th grade KMIS teacher.

Mr. Sowerby was a beloved member of the CCS staff and his absence will be felt deeply by his students and colleagues. Trish went on to say, “His loss will leave a void in many people's lives, in this community and in the CCS orchestra programs; but his gift of music will go on and on. Every time one of those young musicians picks up their instrument and plays, David lives on in every note. What could be a more beautiful legacy than that?”

Kraft Meadows Intermediate School Principal, Steve Uyl, reflected on the amazing individual David was with his students and the community as a whole. “David had a tremendous way of inspiring his love for music in his students and had a unique talent for developing first-time orchestra students. He had the perfect demeanor in the classroom and always pushed his students to do their very best. He will be greatly missed, but he will always be remembered for the legacy and impact that he had on his family and our entire Caledonia Community.”

CCS Administration