

Message sent from Olathe Public Schools

Parents and Students:

We enter an extremely busy week this week before we slow down for winter break. Please see details below.

### **Celebrations**

Congratulations to our freshmen who were selected to the Sousa Honor Band! We are proud of your hard work to get selected to these excellent honor groups!

Sophia Solovev- Red Band, Taylor Holland- Blue Band, Nolan Schmanke- Blue Band, Sean Yu- Blue Band, Abby Eaton- Blue Band

Congratulations to our 16 students who performed this weekend with the East Central KMEA Honor bands. All four performances were outstanding, and I am so excited for these students to have such a wonderful musical opportunity. These students will now be eligible to audition for the Kansas All State Band in January in Salina.

### **Winter Concert**

The Winter Band Concert is this Thursday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. This concert includes all members of the band program including the jazz and percussion classes. Doors to the house will be locked until approximately 6:45 p.m. so we can finish with some pictures. I need to finalize time with the photographer so I will share the report time with students later this week. A reminder all students need to take their concert uniforms that were checked out to them home before Thursday. The expectation will be that they show up to their report time in full uniform. Students that need to borrow appropriate shoes should come see Mr. Smikahl on Monday or Tuesday. Students will not wear tennis shoes with their concert tuxes or dresses. Please see the note at the bottom of this email from the boosters about cookies for the concert.

### **Pep Band**

This week we kick-off another component of our band program with the start of basketball pep band. I am very proud of the fact that we have one of the only volunteer pep bands in the area. Many schools require students to sign-up for a specific amount of games but our group is completely volunteer based. It is a wonderful way for students to earn community service hours for groups like NHS and other honor organizations. It is also a great way for students to earn lettering points. Please note that lettering points will be based on attendance so students who sign-up but do not consistently show up to the games will not receive any lettering points.

I tell the students pep band is the second most visible portion of our band program behind our marching program so it is critical that we are able to always sound and look great at these games.

We will have games this week on Tuesday and Friday. Most games the rest of the season are double headers so the report time will be 5:30 p.m.

However, both games this week are just one varsity game so report time is not until 6:15. We will rehearse first and then head down and play for the game. The end time of all pep band games depends on how the game is played (home many time outs are called, how many fouls are called, etc.) and it can vary widely. Students who need a parent to pick them up afterwards should call with 5:00 minutes left in the game so that everyone is able to leave right after the game is over. Students who have their pep band shirt from last year should wear it for the games. I will not have the shirts for new members until after winter break so please just wear any OE gear.

#### **Calendar Updates**

There has been a calendar update. I had the wrong date for the MNU Jazz Festival on our original calendar. We will perform on Wednesday, March 27th. As a reminder if you sync the calendar on the band website to your personal calendar you will receive all updates automatically as they happen.

#### **Drumline**

The drumline will perform at the OE Pep assembly on Thursday and then at pep assemblies at both PT and CT on Friday. Our uniform for all performances will be dry-fit shirt, jeans, marching shoes with black socks.

#### **Help needed**

For our winter concert, it is tradition to have a reception with cookies/punch for all attendees. In addition, EVERY student/family will be **required to bring 1 dozen** cookies/desserts to the band room by Wed. Dec 6th. You can send them in with your student. They can be individually wrapped or all on a tray or paper plate. If you would like your serving tray back, please put your name on it and come and get it at conclusion of reception. **Band** parents provide the materials/goodies for our band concert, but choir parents do set-up/tear-down, so you can enjoy the concert. As a trade-off, band parents help set-up/tear-down the choir concert reception (Dec. 12th). This OE tradition has been around for years and we want to keep it alive and well!

Here's the SignUp to help with CHOIR CONCERT:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E054AAEA829A5F85-202210>

**If you prefer to give \$5 or \$10 Donations/Monetary Assistance (instead of 12 cookies):**

Venmo handle: @Brookecp

Please put cookies in the comment section. This money will be used to purchase punch ingredients and/or additional cookies for the band reception.

Thanks,

Mr. Smikahl