

Parents and Students-

Please read carefully as there is a lot of new information in this document.

Recording Session

Below is the recording schedule for March 11th. Initially I had planned to include Wind Ensemble on this recording session but we did not have enough time in the schedule. We have a scheduled an in class recording session for them (more details below). Once the sessions are mixed we will send out the links after spring break for a “virtual” concert. We are asking all students to dress “nice” for these recording sessions. We will cover in class what is acceptable.

6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.- 7th hour percussion recording session

7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.- 3rd Hour Concert Band and 1st Hour Symphonic Band recording session

8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.- 4th Hour Nighthawks jazz band recording session

Nighthawks Extra Rehearsal

In order to prepare for the recording session and to add in our remote students that are able to participate we will be having a 7:00 a.m. rehearsal on Tuesday, March 9th. This rehearsal is for students in 4th hour only! We will be sending our recording in from the March 11th recording session so we can participate in the new MNU Jazz Festival! There will most likely be one additional recording session in mid-April for the Nighthawks to prepare another recording for the Kansas City Jazz Summit Jazz Festival. We will try to schedule that recording session for a class period in April.

Important Calendar Updates

With the change to full in-person learning the district has opened up some performance opportunities for us. In addition, we are in the time of year where we will need to be holding some very important auditions for next year. Please email me if there are conflicts and we will do the best to work around them.

- March 8th- Yearbook Pictures in class for Symphonic Band and Concert Band and Percussion Ensemble. Students do not need to dress-up this picture.
- March 9th- Yearbook Pictures in class for Wind Ensemble and Jazz Bands. Students do not need to dress-up this picture.
- April 2nd- Wind Ensemble Recording Session In class- Students need to dress nice for this recording. We have permission for remote students to attend this in class if they would like to. They will need to leave in time to be home for their other remote classes.
- April 9th- Drumline Auditions- 3:30p.m to approximately 5:00 p.m. Students may leave after they audition.
- April 13th- Booster Meeting and New Marchers Meeting *see information below
- April 23rd- Pizza Jazz @ Pioneer Trail- OE will perform at approximately 6:50 p.m. The event will most likely be held outdoors.
- May 4th- Spring Concert- We will be holding our spring concert/banquet outside. Many more details about this event will be sent out closer to the event.

- May 8th- Percussion Show- Parents will be allowed to attend in the auditorium and all other guests will be able to live stream the performance.

Solo/Ensemble Festival Sign-ups

Please use this link to sign-up for a solo or small ensemble. This is a voluntary event and is not required for a grade for any class, but will count towards lettering in band. This year there is not Regionals and State, there is only one session that will be held virtually. I will need to submit your video between March 22nd and April 5th. It will be the student or the small ensemble's responsibility to make their video recording. I am willing to help if given enough advanced notice. Please use this link to sign-up:
<https://forms.gle/buQEwtCLtftQjijJA>

Drum Major Auditions

For students interested in auditioning for Drum Major for the Fall 2021 marching season we will be holding an informational meeting on Thursday, March 11th during Seminar. You will need to come to the band office prior to the meeting and get a seminar pass from us in order to be able to attend. If you haven't decided for sure that you want to audition you should come and get the information so you can make an informed decision. As I mentioned in Wind Ensemble rehearsal recently, we will be leaning more on our leadership team next year than we have in the history of the program as we work to catch-up everyone to the Orange and Blue Brigade way of doing marching band!

New Marchers Parent Meeting and April Booster Meeting

As listed above, we will be hosting two meetings the same evening on April 13th. From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. we will have a meeting for parents of new marchers. This would include any parents of students that audition into the marching band as current 8th graders and any parents of current freshman that are choosing to march at East for the first time next year. Additionally, any parents of upperclassmen who have never had the "full marching band experience" because of the modifications caused by the pandemic are also welcome to attend and learn about marching band camps, competitions, etc. This meeting will be held virtually on this zoom link:
<https://olatheschools.zoom.us/j/6657628326>

At 7:30 p.m. that evening we will also hold our last booster meeting of the year. We still have several critical positions for next year that we will need filled. As I mentioned in our February meeting, there is a large challenge for us this year as we have lost the opportunity to connect and meet new parents with the greatly reduced performance schedule. We will send out a detailed list of open positions and what they require for those interested in helping out but unsure where to start. In addition to filling positions we will need to have a vote to approve the budget for next school year. I also hope to have some additional trip updates at that meeting. We plan to try and have an in person option for this meeting outdoors, but will also hold it virtually using the same link as above.