

OE Band Update 8-8-21

1 message

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To: jennbillam@gmail.com

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Message sent from Olathe Public Schools

Parents and Students-

This will be my first email using the 2021 Gradebook instead of the email list we have used this summer. If you are receiving this email and your child is not in marching band/drumline classes please contact the counselor that is assigned to your student and they will start working on correcting their schedule. We have found over the last week that there have been a few students who were accidentally placed in the incorrect band class. Now that I am able to once again use the gradebook to email I will be able to send emails to both student and parent email accounts.

Thank You

I want to thank everyone helped put together the silent auction. It was an extremely successful event and we really appreciate the hours that it took to put it together! I also want to thank every that stayed after the performance and participated in the event! This money is critical to balancing our booster general fund budget. We couldn't have been happier with how the event went, especially considering the limitations we had in place because of Covid.

Monday Night Rehearsals

Monday night rehearsals start tomorrow (August 9th). We will rehearse from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the field. Please make sure you are on the field ready to start at 6:30 p.m. Students need to continue to bring their own water bottle/jug as it will still be warm in the evening. Monday night rehearsals are important because it is one of the few times during our rehearsal schedule where we can get some of our additional staff members at the rehearsal since most of them cannot attend our 7 a.m. rehearsals. These rehearsals are required and points are given towards their grade. If students have conflicts with Monday night rehearsals and another activity they need to meet with me individually and we will come up with a plan on how to handle it. This week will be starting our Opener pass-off and finishing up the pass-offs for the warm-ups (which were due during camp). Students who have not completed their required pass-offs prior to the first performance may be held out of the performance.

Forms and Fees Night/OE Open House

On Thursday, August 19th we will be having our Forms and Fees Night in conjunction with the OE Open House. The band room will be open from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for parents to come and take care of their forms. We have mandatory forms that are required by KSHSAA and the Olathe School District for participation in our activity. This is a great way to get them knocked out all at once and checked off of your to-do-list. Once again, students who have not turned in their paper work will not be allowed to participate in the first performance. I waiting to get the 2021 forms from the District, and will email them out this week before hand so that you can fill them out before arriving if you would like.

With regards to fees, the only required fees are the cost of the marching shoes and gloves. The boosters ask for a suggested contribution as well. This is not required, but is how we fund a large portion of the booster activities. If you cannot afford the entire amount at once we accept it in payments spread out over the year or later in the year. We are thankful for anything that families are able to contribute. We recognize that the pandemic has put some families in very tough financial situations, which is why we do not call it a fee or require payment. I will be sending a cost breakdown sheet with the forms later this week.

Booster Meeting

On August 24th we will be holding our first booster meeting of the year. I think many parents will benefit from attending the booster meeting since we have so many students who are new to "real" marching band. At this meeting as part of my director's report I will take the time to explain in more detail what some of the events on the marching calendar are and how they work (can parents attend, how long do they last, where are they at, do they cost, etc.). This will truly be the best way to be plugged in and understand what is happening with marching band. At all booster meetings this year I will also provide updated information about our impending trip to L.A. in March.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions. I do not keep my work email on my phone and often times only have one time in the day when I check email depending on our rehearsal schedule so it usually takes me 24 hours to respond.

Thanks,
Mr. Smikahl

