

Parents and Students:

It has been several weeks since my last full update and we have had a lot happening in the OE band program so I apologize in advance for the length of this email!

Celebrations!

Congratulations to our members of Wind Ensemble that were selected as All State students! They worked very hard for this honor, especially in this challenging year, and we are so proud to have them as part of the Olathe East Band!!

- Josh Laughlin- First Chair Alto Sax in the State!
- Colvin Hoskins- First Chair Tenor Sax in the State!
- Caleb Hernandez- Clarinet
- Jordan Culton- Bass Clarinet- First Freshman in the history of OE to make All State!
- Avery Prather- Trumpet
- Cameron Castaldi- Trumpet
- Billy Sharp- Trombone
- Caden Miller- Baritone
- Jessie Fish- Mallet Percussion



Thank you!

We had a wonderful turn out for our first virtual bingo event. We certainly missed having it in person and the energy that happens as people stand up in the commons and battle for those prizes, but I thought it went very well considering the circumstances. We were able to raise the needed money for our drill for next year's field show which is GREAT!

Enrollment

Just a reminder that since we haven't done auditions yet for Wind Ensemble, students can just enroll for symphonic band/marching band and then we will provide rosters for each class and the counselors will move the correct kids into Wind Ensemble. Students that want to continue to play in band but are not wanting to do marching band should reach out to me. We handle those cases on an individual basis. Students that want to play in jazz band do not need to audition for first semester jazz combo class, they can just sign up. If they are interested in being in our top jazz band the Nighthawks they need to email me and I will let them know if they need to audition or not.

Band Camps this summer

I am sure there will be additional information as we get closer, but it is my understanding that the Olathe district plans to hold both athletic and activity camps this summer as normal. I am sure there will be some mitigation strategies we will need to follow but we are not aware of what those entail at this time. There is not a tuition charge for our camps, but they are mandatory for students who are in marching band. If you have conflicts please notify me as soon as possible.

All of our camps use the following schedule:

- 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. outside rehearsal on the turf field at Olathe East
- 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. is an open lunch period that is unsupervised. Students can go home and eat/shower/nap, go out with friends, or can bring a lunch and eat here at the school. The band staff is typically in meetings during lunch and won't be supervising students.
- 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. indoor music rehearsal at Olathe East

I have not cleared these dates with the district yet, but I have cleared them with the coaches. We plan to hold our camp as follows:

- May 22nd Pre-Camp Carwash at Meyer Music (pending district approval)
- June 1st- Introduction for our new marchers and our leadership team and drumline. New marchers would include any student in the program that has not done a field show where we had drill. For sophomores and freshman that were in marching band this year we would still need you to come to this day of camp since you will need to learn how to march. All drumline (pit and battery) and leadership team members will need to attend this first day of camp as well.
- June 2nd, 3rd, 4th- Pre-camp for all members of the marching band.
- July 19th and 20th- Drumline and Leadership Team camp
- July 24th- Band Camp Carwash (pending district approval)
- July 21st through the 23rd and July 26th through the 30th- Full Band camp for all members
- July 26th- in the evening we will have the Orange and Blue BBQ and End of Camp performance. This is our first performance of the year and our biggest fundraiser of the year and students are expected to attend.

Conferences

Below is a link if you would like to meet during conferences. Since most students have a very good grade in band, items I can discuss include: potential college scholarships for musicians, good private lesson teachers to help students achieve their goals, or answering questions about the trip.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090845AEAD2FA31-conference>

Below is the zoom link you will need to login to your child's conference

<https://olatheschools.zoom.us/j/6657628326>

Trip

Attached to this email is the slideshow from my original presentation of the trip that I have converted to a pdf. If you are not yet aware, we are traveling to Los Angeles, California in March of 2022. Any student enrolled in band is eligible to go on the trip. Please email me directly if your child would like to attend the trip but your family needs financial assistance. My goal is to help any student that wants to go on the trip to be able to afford to do so. I will be sending out an email soon with dates for the initial deposit and a payment schedule as well as fundraiser information.

Concert Band and Symphonic Band

Thank you to everyone that attended the evening rehearsal last week. It was great to see everyone in one large group instead of so many small classes! We are in the process of scheduling a recording session with a professional videographer so that we can share some music with parents of students in those classes! Please keep an eye out for an email from Mrs. Creek

Thanks,
Mr. Smikahl