

Message sent from Olathe Public Schools

Parents and Students:

Celebrations!

Congratulations to our students who performed with the John Philip Sousa Honor Bands this weekend at the Lied Center in Lawrence! Taylor Holland- Clarinet, Abby Eaton- Percussion, Sophia Solovev- Flute, Nolan Schmanke Trumpet, and Sean Yu French Horn.

Also, congratulations to the nine students who were selected for the Kansas All State Bands this past weekend. Claire Heigele first chair clarinet in the Symphony Orchestra, Wesley Janssen first chair clarinet in the Band, Jordan Culton first chair bass clarinet in the Band, Brady Smotrilla contra-bass clarinet, Ryan Yu bassoon, Jackson Malone trumpet, Jack Kennedy baritone, Ryne Poindexter percussion, and Emerson Prather percussion. An extra special shout out to Jordan Culton who has made an All State group all four years and becomes Olathe East first ever four year member! There are many great schools in Olathe, BV, and SM that have one or two students selected so to have nine selected from our program is a really great accomplishment and a credit to the kids that worked so hard to be selected.

Pep Band

Our next game is this coming Tuesday, January 23rd. We are hosting 7th and 8th grade students from PT and CT for this game. I will share the report time in class. We will provide pizza for the students and all high school students should wear their pep band shirt.

Olathe East Area Band Festival

Coming up soon on February 6th, we will hold our annual Olathe East Area Band Festival in the gym at OE. Students in 7th and 8th grades from PT and CT will perform along with our combined concert band and symphonic band, our wind ensemble, and our jazz band. Report time for high school students is 6:30 p.m. for the 7:00 p.m. concert. With the younger kids in attendance we work really hard to keep this concert right around an hour long. The two middle school bands will face the North bleachers and the high school bands will face the south bleachers so please make sure you sit on the correct side of the gym for your child. We will wear our concert uniforms for this performance.

Potential Marching Band Dates

I have received a lot of emails about marching band dates for this summer. I am still working with the football head coach Mr. Porter on finalizing our schedule. Some of the schedule is dependent on when football camps at area colleges are being held. But at this point I can tell you which weeks

are in contention and if everyone can please avoid those weeks for family trips or other camps then the remainder of the summer should be open for those activities.

- Pre-camp- It will be either the last week of May (28th through the 31st) or the first week of June (3rd through the 6th).
- Full camp- July 22nd through August 2nd with the Orange and Blue BBQ on August 2nd in the evening.

I will send out an additional once pre-camp has been officially confirmed.

KMEA Trip

As mentioned earlier in the year, the Olathe East Wind Ensemble has been selected as the only 6A wind ensemble for this year's state conference. It is a great honor for our program and we have been working very hard to prepare for the performance. Our schedule for that event is as follows:

- We will depart from East on Wednesday evening February 21st. We will bus to Wichita and stay the night at a hotel near the airport.
- Thursday morning we will wake-up and have breakfast and then have a short rehearsal in a ballroom at the hotel.
- We will then get changed at the hotel and bus to the performance venue (Century II).
- We will have exactly 30 minutes to warm-up prior to our performance and then exactly 30 minutes for our performance.
- After the performance we will go have a formal group photo taken.
- All State students will return to rehearsal and then everyone else will bus to a late lunch. After the lunch the bus will depart for Olathe. Mrs. Fillingham and myself will have to stay in Wichita to supervise and transport our All State students to and from rehearsals. **With this in mind we are need of one or two parents to be a chaperone for those two days.** The primary responsibility is to be the adult(s) on the bus and then make sure they get everything loaded back into Olathe East upon arrival. It is more enjoyable for the parents if there are two that can room together and share the work load, but we can make it work with one. Please email Mr. Smikahl if you are willing to take this on.

For parents that can't travel as a chaperone, but would like to come down for the performance on Thursday please email me and I can get you ticket information. We open the conference as the first performing ensemble at noon on Thursday. The kids would love to have the support!

Reminders for Wind Ensemble Students

Dr. Popiel will be in class this coming Thursday for our clinic. We will travel to KU during the school day in two weeks from tomorrow to work with their faculty on our music. Please make sure you have those on your personal calendars!

Thanks,
Mr. Smikahl

