

Message sent from Olathe Public Schools

Parents and Students:

I hope everyone had a wonderful spring break! Things will be very busy for the next several weeks. Next to October and marching contests, our busiest month in terms of sheer number of events in the band program is April. All of these dates should be on our band website calendar, but I wanted to go ahead and highlight them in this email and give additional information. I know this is a lot for one email, but I thought it would be helpful for parents to have it all in one place versus spread across several emails over the next few weeks. We have several in-class clinics with area clinicians the next several weeks that I am not going to add on here just to keep it from being even more information, but they are listed on the white board in the room and students should already be aware of them and make all attempts to be in class on those days. The only date that is not in this list is the informational trip meeting for next year's trip to NYC. Please scroll to the bottom of the email for an update on the trip.

Remaining Dates for this School Year

- **7 a.m. Rehearsals-** Since we combine groups and have percussionists in other hours, we must have some out of school rehearsals to prepare for contest. These are required rehearsals and count towards their grade in band. Students with conflicts need to speak with us in person and follow-up with an email.

1st, 3rd, 6th hour

Symphonic Band/Concert Band students

7:00 a.m. rehearsals at East on March 24th, 31st, April 7th, April 18th

2nd and 6th hour

Wind Ensemble students

7:00 a.m. rehearsals at East on March 29th, April 4th, April 12th, April 19th

- **Olathe East Area Jazz Festival-** Thursday, March 30th at 7:00 p.m.- This is a new event that replaces the long-held tradition of Pizza Jazz at P.T. and moves it to the high school and adds C.T. We were actually the only attendance area in the district not doing a jazz festival for their feeder middle schools at the high school. CT and PT will each play one set and then we will play one set at the end. We will also be selling ice cream not as a fundraiser but at our cost just for fun. The event will be held in the commons area at East. Uniform for all jazz events is full concert black which is our tux with a black button up dress shirt (provided by the student) and no bow tie or an all-black dress (doesn't have to be our concert dresses but must be all black). Please let me know if you need financial assistance with the black dress shirt.
- **Drumline Auditions-** Friday, March 31st from 3:30 (or as soon as our judge arrives) until approximately 5:00 p.m.- Students are allowed to leave as soon as they have finished auditions.
- **Symphonic Band Festival-** Wednesday, April 5th- We host this event in our auditorium and it includes symphonic bands from each of the district high schools. Students do not need to wear their concert uniforms, but they should "dress nice" for school that day. We will outline what "dress nice" means in class. It typically runs from 8:00 a.m. until approximately 10:30 a.m. Parents don't typically attend because it is the same literature that will be performed on the April 17th concert.
- **MNU Jazz Festival-** Wednesday, April 5th- We will perform at 2:20 p.m. but will try to stay and listen to a few groups after we finish performing. Parents are welcome to come and listen. I will be sending a separate email to parents about the bus situation for this event.
- **Wind Ensemble Festival-** Thursday, April 6th- Exactly the same format and information as the Symphonic Band Festival listed above but with all of the district's Wind Ensembles performing instead.
- **Regional Solo/Ensemble Festival-** Saturday, April 15th- This event is required for students in the 6th hour percussion class. All other students who attend have already voluntarily signed up to play a solo or in a small ensemble. This event is hosted at Olathe South. It runs from approximately 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and we will not know our performance times until approximately a week out from the event. A reminder for soloists the must have two sets of original music (one for the soloist and their accompanist and one for the judge) and if their music has a piano accompaniment part they must hire and rehearse with an accompanist. They will not let you perform with photocopies because of copyright laws. We are required to provide some parents to help run this event in order for our students to participate because it is such a huge event. They will work with you to make sure you can still see your child perform if you volunteer for a shift. Please sign-up here if you are able to help: <https://bit.ly/ReqSEvolunteer2023>
- **Contest Prep Concert-** Monday, April 17th at 7:00 p.m.- The combined Concert Band/Symphonic Band will perform first and then Wind Ensemble will perform their concert selections. The second half of the concert will feature special guest The Crossroads Wind Symphony which is a professional group that Mrs. Creek and myself perform in. Students need to be in full concert uniform.

- **State Large Group Contest-** Thursday, April 20th- We started hosting this event at Olathe East last year. This is a during the school day event for both our Wind Ensemble and Concert Band/Symphonic Band students. Students need to be in full concert uniform. I could use a couple of parents to help us host, please email me if you are available for a shift during the day.
- **Drum Major Auditions-** Friday, April 21st- 3:30 p.m. (or as soon as our judge arrives) until approximately 5:00 p.m.
- **Wind Ensemble Auditions-** Tuesday, April 25th- These will be recorded auditions that take place during class time.
- **New Marcher Meeting and Booster Meeting-** Tuesday, April 25th- At 6 p.m. we will have a new marcher parent meeting. It is mandatory that a parent/guardian is in attendance for any student that is new to marching band at Olathe East regardless of grade level. If you have a conflict please email Mr. Smikahl. Directly after that meeting will be the final booster meeting for this school year.
- **KCKCC Jazz Summit-** Friday, April 28th- We perform in the afternoon at this event. Parents are welcome to come and listen. More information will be coming closer to the event.
- **State Solo and Ensemble-** Saturday, April 29th- For soloists or ensembles that get a one rating at Regionals they advance to State. This event is hosted by Topeka Washburn Rural High School. We ask that students ride with their parents or carpool with other parents. Times will not be announced until a week out from the event. Percussionists in 6th hour are expected to attend if one of their ensembles make it to State.
- **Spring Concert/Banquet-** Friday, May 5th- This event starts at 6 p.m. in the commons area for some large group awards and cake. As soon as that portion is finished, we move to the concert in the auditorium and some individual awards. Seniors and their parents/guardians will be recognized at this event individually so we hope you can attend. We will "dress nice" for this concert and not wear our concert uniforms. Please note that this event was originally schedule for the following Monday but was moved earlier this semester because of a facility conflict.
- **Percussion Show-** Saturday, May 6th- This is our annual percussion fundraiser. It is more of a "show" and less of a concert with a wide range of different types of events. It is \$5 per person to attend. Dress rehearsal will start at 2:00 and then the event will start at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at East.

2024 Trip to NYC

The trip did not make it onto the school board agenda yet to be officially approved by the district, but I have been given permission to move ahead with some of the preliminary plans as we await official approval. I am working with our tour organizer to finalize a date for our meeting (he will zoom in and join us) and as soon as I have that confirmed I will send a separate email out with just that information.

Thanks,
Mr. Smikahl