

Message sent from Olathe Public Schools

Parents and Students:

Our winter concert is on Thursday, December 8th. At Olathe East we have developed a system that allows us to have refreshments after our performance but also allows for parents to not miss any of the band concert. Orchestra will be serving our refreshments at our concert but that means we need parent volunteers to serve/setup and tear down refreshments at the choir concert. Here is the link to sign up to help. The choir concert is on Monday, December 5th.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E054AAEA829A5F85-202210>

Trip

I shared the news with students last week that the district has made the decision to not adjust the trip rotation based on the Covid disruption. What that means is that even though last year was a trip year for us we will once again go on a trip next year. I have not decided on a destination but will share that I never do the same trip twice in a row, so it will for sure not be L.A. With this change it means that more students that ever have the chance to go on two band trips instead of just one. I will plan to announce the location in March, and we will collect an initial deposit for the trip towards the end of the school year. The trip is not required in any way, but all students enrolled in the band program at Olathe East next year are eligible to attend. We will work with families to the best of our ability to provide financial support through the administration.

Concert Band

Thanks to everyone who attended our first concert of the year. I was so disappointed that I was not recovered from my surgery and was unable to attend, but it sounds like it went very well! A shoutout to Mrs. Creek who managed everything while I was out. We are now focused on preparing for our upcoming winter concert on December 8th. This will be a longer concert than the first one since it will feature all the members of the band program. It will be a very well attended concert so keep that in mind with regards to your arrival time. We are also starting to introduce the Circle of Fourths in class and will be doing our first phase of testing on this material at the end of this quarter.

Marching Band/Drumline

First, a heartfelt thank you to every single parent that helped during marching season in any capacity. While it was one of those seasons where we kept falling on the wrong side of some very tight scoring, it was one of the smoother seasons in terms of the logistics and much of that credit goes to the parent support that we received. I was so proud of the show this year and how hard the students worked on it.

We are now transitioning to concert season and preparing for the winter concert. Wind Ensemble is finishing up their first chair test of the year and Symphonic Band will have a playing test soon. We have discussed this in class with the students, but I wanted to share it with parents as well. For those students interested in being in Wind Ensemble (our top concert ensemble at East) next year, now is the time to start private lessons and work on the audition material to prepare for those auditions in April. Private lessons are the single best way to improve on your instrument and approximately 85% of the Wind Ensemble students study privately. If you choose to look into private lessons, please reach out to Mrs. Creek or myself as we have specific teachers we would prefer East students study with.

There have been many great videos and photos posted by parents already from marching season. I would encourage everyone to share your videos or pictures from the season to the folder below so we have originals (even if you already shared them on Facebook). I can always pull pictures off the Facebook page but those are compressed when they are loaded so if I want to use them for pictures in the room the quality is usually not good enough. Reminder that when pulling pictures of your kiddo out of these files make a copy and save. If you just drag and drop the file will disappear for everyone else who shares the folder.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1uvoFZobRyaxsRdf9V7cwF0mSV-xfuJb?usp=sharing>

KBA was professionally recorded by Mr. Video and those files are for sale at the link below. This is a private company offering these videos and is not associated with Olathe East.

<https://mrvideoonline.com/904327>

District Band Auditions

For students that registered, auditions are Saturday at Gardner Edgerton High School. I will send out specific information as soon I receive it, but students will need to be in the building for a meeting at 7:30 a.m. Specific audition times are not given, students will receive a number and then auditions will go in number order. More information to come.

Tuba Christmas

We will once again participate in the Olathe District version of Tuba Christmas called Heavy Metal Christmas. I have already registered all baritone and tuba players in the program to attend. They will need to bring money that day for lunch. Parents are welcome to attend the performance. Here is the information:

What: Heavy Metal Christmas

When: Thursday, December 1, 2022 - Rehearsal at 10:00am - Performance at 11:00am

Where: College Church of the Nazarene at 143rd and Lindenwood

Who: Any Olathe Middle or High School euphonium or tuba player

Thanks,

Mr. Smikahl

