

Message sent from Olathe Public Schools

Parents and Students:

We had a wonderful weekend with the All State students in Wichita! Now we shift our focus to the upcoming Kauffman Center performance for the Wind Ensemble next week,

### **Solo/Ensemble**

I have talked to all the classes at different points the last couple weeks about getting "all the way back to normal" with regards to how the Olathe East band program operated prior to the pandemic. One of the most notable components that has suffered during the pandemic has been participation in solo/ensemble festival. We used to regularly have around 30 to 40 students take solos or participate in small ensembles (trios, quartets, quintets). Last year with the exception of the percussion class which is required to attend, we only had 12 students participate. I think Solo/Ensemble is **so important** for students because it really gives them a goal to work towards for improving their individual playing. I also think it is a great way to learn to work through performance nerves and anxiety as they look to the future for college auditions or even District and All-State auditions. I sent the information about how to sign-up to the students several weeks ago and I would love to see more students add their name to the list. I have made the deadline to sign-up this Tuesday, February 28th. Regional Solo/Ensemble is on Saturday, April 15th at Olathe South. For parents that are not familiar with the middle school version of this event (some middle schools haven't held this for a few years because of Covid) students should prepare a solo (usually chosen for them by their private lessons teacher) and then hire a piano accompanist (we can provide names). They work on the solo and practice with their accompanist. They will then perform for a judge and will receive a rating. The room can be just the student and the judge or as many people as they want to let in (parents, teachers, friends). If they receive a one rating then they go to State Solo/Ensemble on Saturday, April 29th at Washburn Rural High School in Topeka and do the same process again with more difficult judging. Participation in Solo/Ensemble is also one of the only remaining ways to earn lettering points left this school year. So far we have 14 signed-up which is better than 12, but definitely short of where I would like it to be.

Here is the link to sign up: <https://forms.gle/AwoypX8GrZvVvTq76>

### **Marching Calendar**

Attached is the marching calendar for 2023. It includes camp dates as well as football games and rehearsal dates. We do not have all of the marching contest dates finalized so we have put down as much as we know. As soon as we receive updated information on contests I will let everyone know. I also want to point out that we are partnering with Olathe West and hosting OMI next year instead of competing in it. So, we will need a lot of parent help to pull off that event and we will need to look to add a different contest for us to compete in instead of that event.

Please take a close look at camp dates as they have shifted compared to what they have been the last couple years. I base the final camp dates off of when school starts and this year it has shifted

by one week this year. As always, camps are mandatory and where we learn approximately 60% of our show. If you have conflicts please let me know as soon as possible.

### **Auditions**

Coming up in March and April will be auditions for Wind Ensemble, Drum Majors, and Drumline. Most of those dates are already on the calendar on the website or will be added soon. If you sync your google calendar to the band calendar those dates will add automatically when dates are updated. Much more about this coming in a future email.

### **Kauffman Center Performance for Wind Ensemble**

Tickets are now available on the Kauffman Center box office website. There are three bands playing in the afternoon and three orchestras playing in the evening so please remember to reserve tickets for the correct event. Our event starts at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7th. Tickets are free but a ticket is required for admission. Student performers do not need a ticket.

Here is the link to reserve tickets. <https://tickets.kauffmancenter.org/events>

This is such a special concert hall, truly one of the best in America. The group has been working hard and is going to sound fantastic! I hope some of you can take off a half day of work and join us for the performance!

### **SnapRaise**

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported our campaign to raise money for new instruments. It is almost wrapped up and has gone very well! We will share final details once it is all finished but we are excited to be able to get some better instruments in time for our trip next year!

Thanks,  
Mr. Smikahl



## 2023 Marching Band Season Calendar

The marching band program at Olathe East is the most visible part of the program within the community. However, it is also one of the most time intensive. The choice to participate in the most involved portion of the program should not be taken lightly. This is a large commitment as the entire group's success is based on the responsibility, reliability, and overall contribution of every individual member of the group. All rehearsals and performances are required and are a part of their band grade.

- During the school year, rehearsal begins at 7 a.m. four days a week (M, T, W, and F).
- We **do not rehearse on Thursday** mornings due to the block schedule.
- We have rehearsals **every Monday evening** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., starting on **Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**, and concluding on **Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**. The only Monday we will not have a scheduled rehearsal during that time span is Labor Day.

*The district is working to change the school day schedule, starting fall 2023. A school start time change could impact our daily schedule for marching band. We will communicate any changes as soon as we know about them!*

### Required Camp Dates

Please note that we learn about 60% of our show during the summer camps. If you have any conflicts, please email me as soon as possible. I will deal with these conflicts on a case-by-case basis and try to be as flexible as I can, but if you miss camp without setting up prior arrangements with Mr. Smikahl you may lose your spot in the show.

### Pre-Camp

- Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> - **New marchers, Leadership Team & Drumline** (pit & battery) report. Camp runs from 7am to 11am and 1pm to 3:30pm with an open, unsupervised lunch.
- Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, and Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> - **All members report.** Camp runs from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. with an open, unsupervised lunch.
- Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> - **Camp Carwash**- Band carwashes are held at Meyer Music on Quivira. All members are required to fill a 90 minute shift. Shifts are as follows:
  - 10:00 -11:30—Flutes and Clarinets
  - 11:30-1:00—Low Brass and Drumline
  - 1:00-2:30—Trumpets, Mellos, and Saxes

### Drumline Camp (this includes all pit members as well) & Leadership Team Camp

- Monday July 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday July 25<sup>th</sup> - camp runs from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. with an open unsupervised lunch

### Band Camp

- Wednesday July 26<sup>th</sup> - **First Full Day of Band Camp** - All members report from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.
- Thursday July 27<sup>th</sup>, Friday July 28<sup>th</sup> - **Camp continues** for all members with the same schedule
- Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup> - **Camp Carwash** - Band carwashes are held at Meyer Music on Quivira. All members required to fill a 90 minute shift. Shifts are as follows:
  - 10:00 – 11:30—Trumpets, Mellos, and Saxes
  - 11:30 – 1:00—Flutes and Clarinets
  - 1:00 – 2:30—Low Brass and Drumline
- Monday July 31<sup>st</sup> to Thursday August 3<sup>rd</sup> - **Camp continues** for all members with the same schedule

- Friday August 4<sup>th</sup> - **Morning rehearsal** for all members 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. - Leadership Team members stay to help setup for evening performance after rehearsal. No rehearsal in the afternoon.

## **Required Performance Dates**

- **End of Camp Performance and Orange & Blue BBQ**—Fri, Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> 6pm @ OE, in theGym. This is our first performance and largest fundraiser of the year! Please make plans to attend.
- **Home Football Games (4)**
  - Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup> @ CBAC
  - Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> @ CBAC \*Homecoming
  - Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> @ CBAC
  - Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> @ CBAC \*Senior Night and Glow Show
  - Playoffs start the last week in October (10/27) and continue into November on Friday nights—if OE hosts, we will perform at those as well. State is the Saturday after Thanksgiving and if the team makes it, we will play at the state game also. Playoff games are still required performances and graded accordingly.
- **Old Settler's Day Parade**—Saturday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> (time TBA)
- **Olathe District Marching Festival** - Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> 7pm @ CBAC
- **Marching Competitions**

*Please reserve the following dates for these important competitions. Please do not schedule college visits or family trips during any of these weekends! **If you have conflicts with these dates, please let Mr. Smikahl know by May 1<sup>st</sup>.** Students involved with fall sports in particular, please check with your coach on dates and communicate potential conflicts ASAP.*

  - **Tentative Marching Festival:** Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023
  - **Tentative Marching Festival:** Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

(We will compete in a festival either 9/23 OR 9/30, not both. As soon as schedules are finalized, we will communicate the confirmed dates with you.)

  - **Olathe Marching Invitational:** Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023
    - We are hosting this event with OWHS & will be performing in exhibition.
  - **Shawnee Mission North Marching Invitational:** Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - **KBA Marching Band Championship:** Saturday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> @ KU

## **Extra Rehearsals**

These rehearsals are needed to make up for the lost rehearsal time around conferences, in-services, and school wide testing day. Please make sure you take off of work and treat these rehearsals like performances. They will be for a grade.

- Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 8:00am to Noon @ OE
- Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. @ OE
- Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. @ OE

Please don't hesitate to contact one of us ([jsmikahloe@olatheschools.org](mailto:jsmikahloe@olatheschools.org)) or ([jcreekoe@olatheschools.org](mailto:jcreekoe@olatheschools.org)) if you have any questions! We are excited to have your child join us for a fun and successful marching season!

