

Parents and Students-

Below is information for band this week. Especially for marching band students, this is a big week for the program as we head towards our first in person rehearsal. The first information applies to everyone in the program and then specific class information is split out below.

### **Band Booster Meeting**

Our October booster meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. It should be a pretty short one. I will send out the link on the day of the meeting.

### **Sousa Band and District Band Auditions**

Below is information about auditions for two different honor bands. These are not required, but are a great option for students to grow as musicians.

If you are a freshman and are interested in auditioning for the Sousa honor band please contact Mrs. Creek. She can assist you in that process. The auditions are due soon so you will need to contact her right away!

District honor band is open to students in any grade level. It is not required but is a great opportunity for students to grow as musicians. This year the auditions will be a recording (usually they are done live) which should give students a huge advantage because it eliminates the nerves component and really lets students display their best playing. I need to turn in my sign up number this week so please fill out this form by **WEDNESDAY!** If you want to audition for jazz please sign up twice. If you are percussionist sign up for each instrument you are auditioning on.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090845AEAD2FA31-district1>

Here is additional information about how the district band auditions will work. Please read this information carefully so you do not make a mistake!

**Percussion Auditions:** It has been approved to DELAY for one year the "Complete Percussion Audition Structure".

- *For this year, percussionists can pick one or any combination of snare, mallet, and timpani auditions (just as in previous years).*
- Beginning 2021-2022, the percussion audition will be a total audition, requiring students to perform on all three instruments.

**Jazz Auditions:** For this year, improvisation will not be required on Jazz Auditions. Beginning 2021-2022, improvisation will be required in Jazz Auditions. Here is more info from our Jazz Chair, Joel Wagoner:

- For wind instruments: "Required improvisation on "Work Song" – After playing the melody twice through, continue for two full improvised choruses."
- For piano: "'Work Song' – Using the left channel only (bass & drums), play two choruses of the right-handed melody with an appropriate left-hand chordal accompaniment, then continue on for two choruses of improvisation."

### **Marching Band/Drumline**

- Tonight's rehearsal is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. If you are not feeling well please just email me or Mrs. Creek and do not attend. We are so close to having our first big performance we don't want to have students have to miss because of a quarantine. Additionally, if you have had close contact

with someone who is waiting on the results of a COVID test please do not attend. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

- For the game on Thursday night we will have 4 tickets available for each family. We will hand out the tickets to the students this evening at rehearsal. The performer is not included in this number and does not need a ticket. For the performance we are wearing our blue dry fit shirts, jeans, and tennis shoes or marching shoes. I would prefer marching shoes if possible but I did not think it was worth ordering shoes for new marchers for such a small number of performances so I will accept tennis shoes as well. I would really prefer that students have blue jeans that are in good condition and not khakis, slacks, or shorts. If you are not in the financial position to afford jeans and need some for the performance please contact me and we will get something figured out for you. For new students we ordered your dry fit shirts and they arrived today. We will be handing them out at rehearsal. We are asking that students ride to the game with their parents or drive themselves if they are able to. If this creates a problem please let me know.

### **Concert Band**

We are working on learning all 12 major scales without using a scale sheet. We are also working on learning music from the movie Ant Man and will have a playing test on that soon. We have some new technology that the boosters have purchased that we will be starting with this class first. I am very excited about using this resource. More information to come soon.

### **Jazz Combo Class**

First playing test of the year for this class is due by Thursday. Every student is working on finding listening lessons as well. We will be having some music education students from UMKC observing us next week and this will give the students an opportunity to perform for someone besides myself!

### **7<sup>th</sup> Percussion Class**

We continue to have some great playing test submissions. Students are also working on a project to identify a popular piece of music to help practice their paradiddle rudiments to.

Thanks,  
Mr. Smikahl