

Parents:

We have a very important event coming up that we really need help with. Every year we hold a Bingo event that is the primary funding for next year's halftime show. As many of you have already heard, this year I received the largest budget cut to my building budget that I have had in my 22 years of teaching. This means that this event is even more critical than it has ever been to the future success of the Orange and Blue Brigade.

As I shared with every class in the last two days, I am never excited to talk about fundraising. It is certainly not why I went into teaching music. However, the reality of the current situation in our State is that education budgets continue to be cut and the only way to fund some aspects of our program is to hold successful fundraisers. First place finishes in our division at two different contests, multiple caption awards, and our first One Rating at the Bands of America Super Regional in St. Louis this year were the results of a lot of hard work by the students and staff. However, a large part of our success was the custom show that was written specifically to highlight the strengths of our program both musically and visually. In order to continue to have the success we have had in the past we need to raise enough funds to pay for the custom show and props for next year.

We are in need of assistance in two ways. First, we need help soliciting donations. At the Bingo event the winner of each game of bingo wins a gift basket full of donated items. We are way behind on collecting donations for this portion of the event. Below is a link detailing what we need.

Second, we will need some volunteers to help actually run the event. More information will be available on that at a later date.

Finally, we need every family to try to sell tickets to the event. Many families have made it a family event and had a lot of fun. It has also been a great opportunity to get grandparents and neighbors involved as well. We have even had some families reach out to friends that will have students in the band program next year and encourage them to come to the event and start getting plugged in to the high school. We don't require students to sell a specific number of tickets but if a majority of the families in the program could sell at least two tickets we would be able to fund our show for next year.

The other aspect I spoke with the students about in class is utilizing our resources better as a booster organization. If you have connections either through work or through friends or family that could result in donated items for the event please let us know.

Please see the specific information below from our Band Booster President.

Thanks,  
Mr. Smikahl

Dear Parents,

The next big fundraiser, Band Basket Bingo, is right around the corner and we need your help. This fundraiser pays for next year's marching show. So Mr. Smikahl can create the show he has envisioned for our kids, we need your help to make this a successful event.

1. Please click on this link to see our most immediate needs: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054aaea829a5f85-band4>. If you are able to go out into the community to get donations, please email Rachel Hoyer at [rchoyer@olatheschools.org](mailto:rchoyer@olatheschools.org). She will give you specific locations to go to. (They are all friendly places who have donated to us before.) We need people to gather donations in the next 10 days.
2. Share the attached flier with friends, family, and coworkers. Encourage them to purchase their tickets early online at [oeband.com](http://oeband.com). A \$30 ticket gets you 24 opportunities to win 8 different gift baskets valued at \$250+ each. Each ticket purchased before January 18 receives 5 free raffle tickets. See the flier for more details.
3. Remind your friends and family that we will be collecting gently used items for Savers throughout January, and we will have the trailer open to receive donations on Bingo day as well. So if they're planning to come to Bingo, they can bring their Savers donations that day as well.

OE Band Boosters [oehsbandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:oehsbandboosters@gmail.com)