

Subject **Olathe East Band Camp Update**
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- Updated 2020 Marching Season Calendar.docx (~21 KB)

This information is intended for students planning to participate in the Olathe East Marching Band. If your child is going to be in Concert Band and ended up in the email list accidentally, please let me know and I will remove them from this list. I am missing email addresses for most of the parents of our freshmen marchers. Freshman please check with your parents and if they did not receive this email please have them email me so I can add them to the list.

Parents and Students:

I have been receiving several emails and messages asking for additional updates on our upcoming band camp in two weeks. I have purposely chosen to email as little as possible the last several weeks because things are changing so rapidly that I felt like everyone would get very confused if I constantly sent out the most recent information regarding revised camp expectations for this year. There are several pieces of information that are not finalized yet, but there are some general items I can share.

At this time plans are still to have camp on the same dates that I emailed out several times this spring. I attached an updated calendar for the marching season to this email. As always you can also check the band website calendar at www.oeband.com as that is always the most up to date information. For our outdoor rehearsals we will be primarily meeting at the Olathe District Activities Center. Unfortunately, because of Kansas regulations we are not able to provide busing for students for camp currently. Please contact me if your child needs a ride to and from the ODAC rehearsals and I will do my best to line up a ride with another student. The typical times for camps are 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. but please note that this could change if we are required to split into smaller groups. I will send out the finalized times closer to camp. Here is the location schedule for outdoor **morning** rehearsals:

- July 20th and 21st- Drumline camp at OE.
- July 22nd, 23rd, 24th- we will be at **ODAC** (not CBAC).
- July 27th, 29th, 31st- Same schedule as above and still at ODAC.
- July 28th- at OE on the **grass** field next to the turf field.
- July 30th- Gym for pictures (subject to social distancing expectations)

Afternoon music rehearsals will all be held at Olathe East. Once again the schedule may change if we are required to be in smaller groups. We may need to have a staggered schedule where everyone is not in the building at the same time.

I can also share that we have gone ahead and canceled the camp carwash as that will be too difficult to effectively social distance at. The organizers of the Old Settlers Day celebration have also canceled the entire event for this year so we will not have the Thursday night performance or the Saturday parade performance that were both on the initial calendar.

In terms of sectionals we have been given permission to hold our traditional summer sectionals, but they must be held at OE outside (instead of at student's homes) and students must be socially distanced and wear masks when they are not playing their instruments. Sectional leaders please contact me if you would like to schedule a sectional for the next two weeks.

Parents, typically if a student misses camp we write them out of the field show. However, with the challenges we are facing this year camp is not mandatory. If you do not feel comfortable with your child attending camp please let me know and they will be allowed to miss and still keep a spot in the show. If I do not get contacted by a parent and they are not at camp I will assume that they are not marching and we will write them out of the show.

Please be advised that to the best of our abilities we will be strictly following social distance guidelines and mask protocol. The best chance for us to have a somewhat "normal" season is for us to commit to the expectations that are being set by the State of Kansas and the Olathe district to try to do our part to keep each other healthy. Students, you will notice this the most during water breaks as we will not be providing water. Every student needs to bring their own water bottle/jug. We will also be enforcing a 6 foot spacing rule even when resting during water breaks and will be wearing masks when we are not playing. Percussion you will be expected to wear masks at all times.

Students I will be sending music out in a separate email. Our typical expectations are to have all the warm-ups memorized when you arrive on the first day of camp, and the opener memorized by the end of camp. However, we will be revising those deadlines because of all the changes we are facing for camps. You can certainly pass off early, but we will not do mandatory pass offs until school starts back up in August.

I can't tell you how much I miss getting to work with all of you! I really hope that we have the opportunity to come together and work on the awesome show that we have designed for you this year! However, your safety will continue to be our number one priority. Obviously, all this information in this email is subject to change. If COVID numbers continue to go up the next two weeks there is a strong chance that additional changes could be made to these plans.

Please look for final camp information in a little over a week. Email me if you have questions, but I can't guarantee I will have the answers 😊

Thanks,
Mr. Smikahl

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