

Parents and Students:

I am writing to let everyone know that we have made the very difficult decision to not hold drumline/band camp this year. Over the past few days there were many different elements that changed since my previous email that led to this decision. I want to emphasize that we still plan to have a field show, and what that will look like will be determined in the next couple weeks as the plan for starting back to school for the Olathe School District becomes clearer. I have come up with some fun and creative ideas that I will work on with the leadership team and staff to determine what the best course of action should be for our show this year.

This decision was not made lightly. As many of you know, teaching marching band is my favorite part of my job. I love the process of going from taking 30 minutes to teach new marchers how to take one step, all the way to students performing intricate and challenging shows that are consistently one of the best in Kansas. The one item that hasn't changed since my last email is my desire to put the health of students and staff first. I feel this is the best option to achieve this goal. It is normal to be disappointed, frustrated, or even mad about this decision. I encourage you to talk through your disappointment with a friend, a parent, or know that I am always available to listen as well.

With this information in mind, I think the in-person sectionals scheduled at East for this week should be canceled. The sectionals that were scheduled for zoom can proceed or be canceled at the section leader's discretion.

Thanks,
Mr. Smikahl

Jeff Smikahl
Director of Bands
Performing Arts Department Chair
Olathe East High School
14545 W 127th ST
Olathe, Kansas 66062
913-780-7120
www.oeband.com

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