

**PA510-0116 - Marching Band (Caroline Billam) - OE Band Update 11-7-2021**

1 message

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To: jennbillam@gmail.com



Message sent from Olathe Public Schools

Parents and Students:

**Marching Band**

Now that marching season has wrapped up I want to take the time to thank everyone for their help! Coming out of last year I had no idea how the season would go. It truly went better than I could have ever hoped considering how many members were new to marching band. A big thanks to everyone who helped in any capacity big or small to make this season successful and ensure that the students had a great experience. It was great to see the kids out there doing what they do so well this year! The response I have received about the show this year from other directors and even parents of students from other schools has been incredibly supportive! Many people have been so impressed with what the students were able to accomplish!

Please look for upcoming information about our Bingo event that funds a large portion of the field show expenses for next year's field show. It is critical that this event is successful if we are going to be able to design a custom show like we have done in the past. We are already hard at work at designing next year's show and will soon have to pay our music arrangers and drill writers as well as copyright expenses in order to have the show written and ready for us to learn in June.

I have received many questions about camp dates for next summer. I cannot finalize our dates until the district finalized their calendars for next year. However, if you are needing to make summer plans now, I would avoid the beginning of June and the last two weeks of July and first week of August. Depending on when the first day of school falls, our camps will fall in those windows. As soon as I have them finalized I will send them out.

**Suggested Contribution**

At the beginning of the year we requested a suggested contribution from families that are able to do so. The financial reality is that the level of band program we operate at Olathe East requires a lot of funding. We do not have a required band fee at Olathe East unlike many of the bands in the area. We always budget for this contribution with the understanding that some families will not be able to contribute. With this in mind we set our budget expecting 75% participation from families. Currently, we are at 80% of that budgeted 75%. We ask for a \$50 donation from families of students in third or seventh hour and \$300 for students in marching band. I wanted to remind everyone that if you are able to donate and have forgotten to do so you can claim the donation on your taxes for 2021 since we are a 5013C organization as long as we receive your check before January 1st. I would love to not have to ask for donations but the reality of the situation is that we have increased costs and while we have not met our budgeted amount for contributions, we have gone over budget on transportation and food expenses for this year because of increased costs from vendors. We are also really needing to fund some instrument replacements for some instruments that are no longer in good condition and unfortunately that cost is falling to the boosters as the district has not given us Capital Outlay funds for instrument purchases for several years. You may send a check in to the band office payable to OE Band Boosters, or you may go to the band website at [oeband.com](http://oeband.com) and pay with a card. If you need a receipt for taxes or if you have questions about if you have contributed yet or not please contact the booster treasurer Rebecca Novotny at [rlnovotny113@gmail.com](mailto:rlnovotny113@gmail.com)

**Winter Concert**

The winter concert will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium and will include all the students in the band program at Olathe East. We have started the process of checking out concert uniforms for students. The district supplies concert dresses and tuxedos. Students that do not have a tux shirt will need to purchase one. The school supplies the tux coat and pants and the cummerbund but does not supply the shirt or bow tie. However, the vendor we have used in the past no longer has a tux shirt and bow tie package. We will be sending out a stand alone email with information on how to order your tux shirt once we find a new vendor. We also ask that students wear dress shoes with these uniforms. If they do not have concert tux shoes for I have marching band shoes that will work as dress shoes that they can borrow. As always, if there is a financial concern about affording dress shoes, or ordering the tux shirt and bow ties please email me and we can find funds to assist you.

**Tuba Christmas**

For our baritone and tuba students, we will be participating in Tuba Christmas again, however it will look much different. The traditional event put on by the KC Symphony is still happening, however they are holding it outside and we have concerns about weather that time of year. With that in mind, some of the other directors in the district have come together and created their own event. It will be called Heavy Metal Christmas and will be held at a local church here in Olathe. It will be held on December 1st during the school day and will start with a 10:00 a.m. rehearsal and an 11:00 a.m. performance that will be open to the public. The event should conclude by 11:45 at the latest. I will share more information as it gets closer to the event.

Thanks,  
Mr. Smikahl

