

Subject **Marching Band: OE Marching Band Updates**
From Jeff Smikahl <jsmikahl@olatheschools.org>
To <JENNIFER@BILLAMFAMILY.COM>
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This email is for parents of students in the marching and, please delete if this does not apply to your child.

Parents and Students:

As always, thanks to the many parents who helped last night. I was really proud of how the kids performed!

Attached is the information for this Saturday's event in Sedalia. Even though there is a chance of rain we will prepare and attend as if the weather will be great and hope for the best. Since it calls for scattered showers there is always the chance it could be raining here but be clear in Sedalia. The information packet they sent out for this particular event was very short, so outside of the information I include in the attachment I have very little other logistical information. As I reference in the handout, we will not stay for awards and will head home immediately after lunch so students can get ready for homecoming.

For anyone interested in helping, there is a planning meeting for the first ever Olathe Marching Invitational tonight from 6 to 7 p.m. at Olathe Northwest. We are hosting this contest in conjunction with the ONW boosters and it is a great opportunity but also will be a lot of work.

Here is the information from Mr. Davis:

Hello!

As you are able, please join us in the ONW band room to discuss our to do lists, brainstorm ideas, share concerns and solutions, plan for a spectacular inaugural Olathe Marching Invitational! Please send any talking points you would like addressed before or during the meeting to rdavisonw@olatheschools.org and I will draft the agenda. THANK YOU for sharing your time, ideas, and kind support for this event! Please be sure to invite those who would like to / be helpful in a lead role for the event. Please also invite those who would like to participate in a supporting role. Thanks so much!

Even if you are unable to attend the meeting tonight, we are really looking for a lot of parent help to make this event successful. I think if the weather is good for the contest on October 26th we could really make a significant amount of money for the OE band program at this event. This meeting is primarily to identify important roles and answer questions as we continue to plan for this festival.

Glow Show

The plan for Friday night's game is to perform the entire show before the game to give us a chance to get one more performance of it in before the contest on Saturday. Homecoming court will take place at halftime of the game so we would not be able to perform our show then. After the game is our annual "Glow Show" where we perform the entire show with glow sticks taped to the students and the lights turned out in the stadium. Students are asked to bring a change of clothes and it should be as dark as possible. The leadership team for each section is collecting money and then they will purchase the glow sticks for each section. The idea is to have each section match. In addition to the glow sticks each student should supply their own (the section leader is not purchasing these) two small flashlights that they can tape to their ankles for the performance. This is most important part of the glow show because it has a great effect when they are marching in the dark. There are usually cheap flashlights available at Walmart or Target that are great for this purpose. If any family needs financial assistance with the flashlights or the glow sticks please just email me. I know the timing is not great to have a later night on Friday followed by an early morning on Saturday, but with the strange schedule of only three home football games we are doing this event about a month earlier than we normally do.

Cross Country Parents

I have already spoken with Coach Bozarth, and the plan for cross country runners for Saturday is to not run in Topeka and to participate in the marching festival since we only have three marching contests, and this meet is not league or regionals. It is great that Coach Bozarth is a big believer in music and works so well with us to allow students to be able to participate in both activities. The other two contests we have late afternoon performances for prelims so students should be able to run in the morning and then meet us on site for our contest, but they will need to ride with a parent. More information will be coming out about those two contests soon. Please email me if you have questions.

Drumline/Percussion Ensemble Parents

I plan to meet with the students during Hawk Hour this week to hand out information about the trip to Indianapolis. I will then be available to answer questions about the trip after the booster meeting next Tuesday. This will be a really amazing experience for the students and I am so excited to start working on the music! On a different note, the drumline has been asked to perform for a district event that is happening at Olathe East on January 7th. This is before school is back in session for students so please let me know if your winter break plans would exclude your child from being available to perform that day. Wednesday evening the drumline has been asked to perform at 7:30 p.m. for the bonfire (just battery and cymbals). Report time will be 7:15 p.m.

Thanks,
Mr. Smikahl