

Message sent from Olathe Public Schools

**Marching Band Parents this is the first email I have sent out this year that I have issued through the gradebook and not the email list I had put together for the summer. Please email with changes you need to your email account and I will forward those to the front office so they can update your contact information in the gradebook.**

Parents and Students:

We are off to the great start! The students have been amazing at being flexible when we face challenges with technology. There have been some real benefits to this format. I have had the opportunity to hear far more individual student playing than I do in a typical marching year. That will really help me guide instruction throughout the year to meet the needs of individual students. A special shout out to the leadership team for the marching band which has been doing a phenomenal job helping with instruction over the zoom marching band classes! I have been so proud of how they have risen to the occasion!

### **Senior Night Info**

- Reminder that for this Friday night's Senior night football game I will be outside of the Southwest gate where the band typically enters to hand out tickets. Please let me know if you have any questions. For this game the district is not allowing any students or parents to attend the game unless they are parents of a senior.
- Around a minute left in the half there will be an announcement for seniors and families to make their way down towards the fence line
- When halftime hits and players are heading off field, everyone gets to their spots on the field
- Names read
- Head back to seats or go home

### **Marching Band and Drumline Classes**

- We have received our bell covers and performance masks and will begin weekly Monday night rehearsals on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>! These rehearsals will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Students need to bring a mask, their instrument, a flip folder and a lyre for their instrument. Flip folders and lyres are available for purchase at Meyer Music if you do not have one. We have very few opportunities to try to put some music together to perform. Attendance will be critical for these rehearsals.
- Flutes players we have special flute masks on order but they are not in. In the meantime, here is a video from a colleague from the Shawnee Mission school district that shows how to cut a disposable mask for flute playing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xu-R8Sh1itQ>
- For the remaining football games we hope to be able to perform at the game in some capacity. What that looks like will depend on a lot of different factors. The best thing the students can do right now to make those performances a reality would be to work very hard to learn their music.
- The remaining home football games would be on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Both of these games would be at CBAC. If/when we know more about those potential performances we will may be reaching out to parents for additional chaperone support.

### **Concert Band**

We are starting instruction on the circle of fourths, which is fundamental to everything that we do in band at Olathe East. Students that have had the class before should be in very good shape. Students that are new to OE should not hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Creek or myself if you need additional help. This information builds on itself so it will get increasingly difficult for students that fall behind early.

### **Jazz Combo**

We have continued to learn strategies and tips for improving their improvisation. We also have done a lot of listening lessons. I am going to ask all members of the class to submit a video next week of themselves soloing on our current chart using the play along recording that has been loaded into the LMS.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Hour Percussion Class**

We have introduced all of the paradiddle rudiment variations and students submitted a video of themselves playing the Paradiddle Pyramid as their first playing test. They are not working on all of the flam rudiments on the PAS rudiment sheet that is loaded in the LMS.

### **Virtual Open House**

We will be posting a link to the LMS in Synergy that has a video that I made for back to school night information. I briefly go through the band handbook and the changes we have made because of our current instruction model.

Thanks,  
Mr. Smikahl