

Parents and Students:

It has been quite a while since I have done a full update for the Olathe East Band. There is a lot of new information in this email, some of which the students have not heard about in class yet.

Next Concert

The next concert is the Area Festival on Tuesday, February 11th and will include students in hours 1 through 4 as well as students from PT and CT. There will be a few students in the 7th hour percussion class that will perform, but not very many of them. It will be held in the gym and seating will be limited so plan to arrive early for the best seats. Report time will be 6:40 p.m. for the students. For this concert there will be combined rehearsal 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 4th and Tuesday, February 11th for students in first, third, and a few students in 7th hour.

Thanks

Huge thanks to everyone that participated and planned the Basket Bingo event. It was once again an amazing success! We are excited to move forward with our plans for next year's show now that we have covered those costs. I plan to make a show announcement sometime before spring break once we finish up a few details.

Help Needed

As I have mentioned in previous emails, our very large and successful senior class has a lot of parents that are filling important positions within the booster program right now and will need their positions filled soon. We have filled a few important positions so far, but we still have a few that are open that are critical to the success of the entire band program. We need to vote the new board in during the April meeting so it is crucial that we find parents to fill those positions as soon as possible. Tuesday, February 4th at 7:000 p.m. in the band room we will have a booster meeting. If you are willing to consider stepping up your involvement in the program and would like more information please consider attending that meeting. On a personal note, as my oldest daughter enters the band program next year at Olathe West I plan to volunteer with their booster program as much as my schedule allows. That coupled with the fact that next year is our large trip year really increases the need for booster assistance so that we keep everything running smoothly in the program.

Percussion Trip to Indianapolis

I have our preliminary schedule for the trip from BOA. I plan to have a short trip meeting immediately following the booster meeting on Tuesday night to go over some additional trip details.

Next Year's Trip

As many of you know, we take a major trip every three years. We take concert trips so that every student in the program that wants to attend the trip can, even if they are not in marching band. I am actively working with a tour organizer to plan next year's major trip. As soon as we have plans finalized I will schedule a mandatory trip meeting that will be held in the auditorium. I anticipate that meeting not being held until after spring break. More information to come on this subject.

Marching Band Camp

I have usually finalized camp dates for marching band by this point of the year. However, we have some unique challenges this summer that are making the process slower. As soon as I have the dates finalized I will send a separate email with those dates. A reminder for parents who have students marching for the first time next year, we have a mandatory camp at the beginning of June and the end of July. We learn approximately 60% of the show at the camps so it is critical that students attend. Please email me with any specific schedule concerns.

All State Students

Congratulations to the students selected to the Kansas All State ensembles from OE! They are as follows:

Luke Horsch- Trombone, Josh Laughlin- Alto Sax, Jeremiah Valenzuela- Clarinet, Caleb Hernandez- Clarinet, Ethan Wootton- Percussion and Braden Black- Percussion. Courtney Crews and Maggie Clegg were selected as alternate on piccolo and flute.

I have emailed all the students their music and information letter from KMEA. Closer to the actual event I will also send an OE specific letter which addresses our specific schedule. This year will be especially tricky as Mrs. Creek, Ms. Angelo, and myself will be performing at KMEA with the Crossroads Wind Symphony on Thursday afternoon and then the OE Percussion Ensemble will perform at KMEA on Saturday morning.

Calendar Additions

At the beginning of the year I handed out a hard copy of the band calendar for the year. There have been several calendar additions recently, including additional percussion rehearsals and an additional jazz festival. Please reference our website at www.oeband.com for our current calendar.

Concert Uniforms

With the exception of a few students that were absent we have now sized the majority of male students for a tuxedo. If your child has a tux shirt from middle school that still fits they are welcome to use it as long as it has the correct type of collar (check the attached link to see if it is the correct one). All students should purchase their own bow tie with their shirt. In the past we have done a group order but this year we are going to try something different to hopefully reduce some paperwork on our end. Here is the link of the shirt and bow tie we would like students to order (if they don't have one that fits).

<https://www.tuxedosonline.com/white-wing-blend-with-bow-tie-ww-130-wht.html>

We will not wear our concert uniforms for the Area Festival concert in February but we will wear them for contest in April. Please purchase your own shirt and tie and have it before April 1st.

Pep Band

We have about four more scheduled games in the regular season. However, as we move through the pep band season a reminder that we have dates on the calendar in March for Sub-State. It is very important that we have a group at these games. Students need to make sure and keep their schedule open that week so that there are not conflicts.

Donation Letter for Tax Purposes

Please see the information below from our booster treasurer:

Band Parents -

We wanted to let you know that donation acknowledgement letters went home with your students today for those that have made their suggested contribution to the band program this year. Because Olathe East Hawk Pride Band Boosters, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, donations are tax deductible. Please ask your student for this letter, and use it as needed for your 2019 tax preparation.

If you have not yet had a chance to make a contribution for this school year, it is not too late to do so. As a reminder, we do not have a required band fee at Olathe East. We do have amounts that we request that your family considers donating to our booster program to fund the many activities that we do. We ask for a \$50 donation from families of students in *?third or seventh hour (concert band)?* and \$300 for students in marching band. We recognize that not all families are in a position where they can donate, but we wanted to remind everyone that if you are able to donate and have forgotten to do so, your donation is tax deductible in the year in which it is received.

If you would like to donate, you may send in a check to the band office made out to "Olathe East Band Boosters" or use a credit card online at the Olathe band website at www.oeband.com - from there, you will scroll down the page and click on "**Pay Membership Online.**"

If you have any questions, you may reach out to Mitzi Black - Band Booster Treasurer, at mitziblack@msn.com

Thanks,
Mr. smikahl