

Subject **OE Band Update 3.27.2020**
From Jeff Smikahl <jsmikahloe@olatheschools.org>
To <jennifer@billamfamily.com>, <jennifer@billamfamily.com>
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Message From: Jeff Smikahl

Dear OE Band Students and Parents,

Greetings from Mrs. Creek! I hope this email finds you and your family doing well and in good health! I believe it is an understatement to say that it has been a strange couple of weeks since we last saw each other. I mostly just want to reach out to everyone to say hello and check in with you! I also want to take a minute to address a couple of topics. I know there are a lot of questions and we are still working on the answers to most of them. We had many plans in place and goals to reach before everything changed on us. Most importantly, we want to work with you to keep our band family connected and help you reach your goals as a musician.

As you may know, the district Continuous Learning plan launches on Monday and you will be receiving detailed information very soon from the district. This plan includes weekly lessons, designed by the Olathe District band staff, for all band classes. Once you've received that information and get started next week, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. Aside from these lessons, the OE Band staff will be providing supplemental resources, guides, and specific technology that we recommend. You can use these to help maintain/develop your playing skills, continue to collaborate musically with members of your section or ensemble, and explore new ways to work together as musicians.

I know many of you have questions about events that are up in the air as a result of the school cancellation, such as 2020 Drum Major clinics and audition, Drumline auditions, senior memories and recognitions, leadership team interviews, Pre-Camp, Band Camp, and the list goes on. I know some of you have important things you need to get from your locker, like instruments and music. I know everyone was excited that we finally announced the 2020 marching band field show and everything has come to a standstill. The Orange and Blue Brigade staff is still actively collaborating on the upcoming *Ghost Train* field show and it is going to be awesome! We will be working to address these things and will be in touch with you about them as soon as we have information to share. We really appreciate your patience!

I did want to let you know that earlier this week, Mr. Smikahl was diagnosed with Covid-19. He has been home with his family, self-isolated, and is doing well! While he has had a rough week or so, he is feeling much better today and is hopeful he will continue to improve. He is not checking email or doing much at all yet, but know that he will reconnect with everyone once he is fully recovered. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts!

Students....I miss you! I'm missing what would have been an excellent month of preparing for state contest. I'm missing listening to small ensembles and solos and potential Wind Ensemble auditions being practiced in the band room. I'm definitely missing chatting with you throughout the day and after school. I'm even missing looking up your locker combinations that you should have memorized by now! Seniors, I'm especially missing sharing your last semester of high school band with you and all the memories that it held. Please reach out to each other, and to us, and stay connected. I will be in touch soon! Take care of each other, be safe, and wash your hands like you're me. ??

Please don't hesitate to email me with any questions jcreekoe@olatheschools.org.

Mrs. Creek