

Subject **Band Update 4-27-20**
From Jeff Smikahl <jsmikahloe@olatheschools.org>
To <jennifer@billamfamily.com>, <jennifer@billamfamily.com>
Date 2020-04-27 17:45



- Band Letter Application 2019.docx (~14 KB)

Message From: Jeff Smikahl

Parents and Students:

I wanted to share with you some of the updates from our Zoom class meetings that we held with each class last week as well as some additional new information that has been finalized since those meetings.

Camp

As of right now we are still planning on having pre-camp in June and drumline/full camp in July. Next week the Kansas State High School Association will be meeting to discuss what summer sports and activities will look like for the entire State. Once that decision has been made I will email everyone if plans have changed.

Auditions

- At this point all drumline audition recordings should have been submitted to Mr. Smikahl.
- We will be doing live zoom auditions with drum major candidates this coming Friday, May 1st.
- The process for Wind Ensemble auditions are as follows: Attached is the file for all wind instruments. It has been slightly modified this year and includes the material used in previous years in addition to another page of new material. Each instrument should have two pages. Please prepare the material on both pages and send me a video recording of your performance by Wednesday, May 6th. I would like all of the material to be in one file, not separate individual files, so that it more closely follows our traditional live recording process. We are graduating one of our largest and most talented senior classes this year. There are a lot of opportunities for students that are using this extra time in their schedule to work on their instrument. Since it is a recorded audition on your own please take the time to get a good take. We will have higher expectations of the recordings since you have additional time to prepare. A reminder that I require all returning wind ensemble members to re-audition every year.
- We will be holding leadership team interviews after we have completed drum major tryouts. Look for an email with additional information in the future.

Trip

Typically I would be collecting an initial deposit and finalizing our trip roster in May. However, at this point we are in a holding pattern on the trip. I have spoken with our tour organizer and we have agreed to work on the design of the trip over the summer and then make a decision in late July or early August as to if we will move forward. I want to be able to offer this opportunity to students next year but I also want to make sure everyone is safe and healthy. I will email everyone later in the summer with additional information.

Virtual Banquet

Mrs. Creek and I would like to recognize the wonderful student achievements that have taken place throughout this school year. With this in mind we are going to try having a "Virtual" award banquet. We will host it through zoom and will do all of our usual recognitions in addition to our senior video (more on that in a minute) and our annual drum major reveal. I am still working on finalizing a date for the event but we are looking at mid-May. I will email everyone with the date very soon. In order for this event to work we are going to ask for only one device per household. We can only host 300 devices for one meeting so if we have multiple devices per household there will be families that will not be able to get into the meeting. We will record it so that we can email it to everyone after the event.

Senior Memories

Seniors please send a short :20 secondish video of your favorite band memory. We will be doing short videos instead of senior photos and an audio recording. If you send me something too long I will write you and ask you to do it again. If you want to use your senior picture you are welcome to hold it up to the camera and just talk! Please email it to me by May 6th so we have time to put everything together.

Lettering

Attached to this email is the letter application. Please fill it out and email it to me by May 6th. The only item that we were considering adjusting was solo and ensemble since that event was canceled. Here is how I am going to adjust for those missing points. I have a list of students who enrolled for Regional Solo/Ensemble festival. If you enrolled I am going to give you the points for Regionals even though you weren't able to perform. If you want the points for State then I am going to ask that you send me a video of yourself playing

the solo (or if you were in a ensemble your individual part to the ensemble) you would have played at contest. I would once again need those videos by May 6th so I can get everything processed. Cancellations shouldn't have really affected any other "point" opportunities for lettering. Please email me if you have questions.

Opportunity

I spoke to this subject a lot in the zoom meetings last week. While this is certainly not how we expected this spring to turn out, there is a silver lining. For many students that are not working and are not burdened with end of the year school work to the level they would have normally been, you have been given the gift of time. Time is something you can't buy and you can't save, but throughout your life you will often wish you had more of it. I encourage everyone to use a small slice of this time to continue to improve on your instrument. Imagine how amazing our program would be next year if everyone was practicing one hour a day. For many of you it would be very easy right now to find an extra hour in your day to devote to this. For those of you that are very serious and plan to study music in college this is a good chance to get used to what will be expected in college and to practice significantly more than that. There are many wonderful resources available including zoom lessons, all sorts of special online music events that are happening if you look on social media, and then both Mrs. Creek and I are more than happy to offer guidance to students who reach out. Mrs. Creek will be sending out information about Smart Music which is an online music program that usually costs but is free right now. It gives you access to a significant amount of music in addition to background tracks so you can play with something besides a metronome.

Thanks,
Mr. Smikahl
