

Subject **Marching Band: OE Band Update- week of 8-19**  
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To <JENNIFER@BILLAMFAMILY.COM>  
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Parents and Students:

Instead of several emails throughout the week I try to keep my information to one longer weekly email whenever possible. This first one is quite a bit longer because of the additional start of the year information. A quick reminder that if you are ever looking for a previous email and can't find it they are all posted on the "restricted" side of the website under the updates tab. To login in go to [www.oeband.com](http://www.oeband.com) and click on the "members only" tab. The password is "Hawks". The website has been redesigned over the past couple years and is a wonderful resource for the program. Please check it out!

On my weekly emails I generally try to put information that applies to all classes at the top of the email, and then label the rest of the email for each class so that you can scroll down to the information that applies to your child. While it only applies to the students in the marching band I want to encourage everyone to watch channel 9 on Tuesday morning. They will be doing a live broadcast from our practice field complete with an overhead view of the band, the band playing the channel 9 theme song, and more! Most of the live footage will happen between 6:45 and 7:30 a.m.

### Forms

Thank you to the many of you who were able to come to the Forms and Fees night! We recieved a lot of forms which is very helpful! We also had a many of you participate in the test drive fundraiser! We do not know the final total of money raised, but we will be sure to share the news once we receive it! If you did not have a chance to attend the meeting last Tuesday I am asking that forms are turned in by this Friday, August 23rd. Students are not allowed to participate in performances until they have their forms turned in. They will also receive credit for having them turned in on time. All of the forms are on the website. A reminder that the medical form must be notarized! Also, it came to my attention that when I sent out the forms in the last email I forgot to attach the transportation form. Please make sure you include that with your forms.

### Back to School Night

Instead of the Forms and Fees night we used to have an early August booster meeting. We changed to this new format to help parents have access to a notary and get forms turned in quicker. When we did have a booster meeting I always ended up repeating the same exact information about a week later at the Back to School Night. Now that we don't have that meeting I really encourage parents to attend the Back to School Night so we can get very important information to you about the school year and answer questions. Especially with marching band first hour I always run out of time so I encourage you to be a little early as I try to start right on time and talk quickly.

### Boosters

Speaking of booster meetings, I wanted to make a plea for some additional help. We have an **amazing** booster executive board that is made up 100% of parents of senior students (many of which have served for 2 or 3 years)! We have had a few small items fall through the cracks this summer because we have some open positions that were never filled in April when the new board was installed. The boosters provide so much support for Mrs. Creek and myself that there is no way we could operate at the same level of success without their help. Rather than listing all of the open positions, I would just ask that you contact me or Rachel Hoyer if you are interested in stepping into a larger position. The ideal way to step in for someone in a larger position is to act as a co-chair this year with the plan of stepping into a chair position next year after the senior parents leave. With next year being our major trip year it is critical that we have a plan for the executive board moving forward. As my own daughters get older and into more activities I can truly appreciate how crazy family schedules can become. However, this is such an excellent opportunity to spend time with your child and their friends before they graduate. We have had some parents step forward to fill very important roles for next year and we **really** appreciate it, but we still have plenty of important positions open.

### Marching Band (1st and 2nd hours)

Tomorrow morning (Monday the 19th) is the first 7 a.m. rehearsal. We begin the rehearsal at 7:00 a.m. so students really need to plan to arrive at 6:50 to be on time. Percussion need to arrive earlier than that to get equipment out to the field. Tomorrow night is also our Monday night rehearsal so it is a very long day. A reminder that Monday night rehearsals are graded like extra rehearsals and count more in the gradebook. I do not accept work as a reason for students not attending. Please reference the band handbook on the website for more information.

As I mentioned above, Tuesday should be a really cool experience for the kids. However, it does mean they need to be on the field at 6:30 a.m. Live TV is very strict on timing so students that arrive late will not be able to be in the television broadcast. We will be wearing our Grey show shirts for this performance.

### Drumline

There are a lot of questions about the Bands of America National Percussion Festival. I will be sending out a separate email to just parents from that class here in a a week or two about this amazing opportunity for the students. We will be doing a large group stick and mallet order at the end of the month. It is an opportunity for students to get equipment at a discount. Again, more information coming soon on this topic.

### Concert Band (3rd Hour)

Students should be bringing their instruments to school everyday. We will be checking out lockers tomorrow in class. We have quite a while before our first concert and we will spend that time making sure we are all on the same page since we have students joining us from all over the district. In about a week and a half we will have our first playing test so that we can assign students to the correct parts. We only identify principal players (first chair) in each section. We wait to have chair order for the upperclassmen bands.

### Jazz Combo Class (4th Hour)

We will start listening lessons this Thursday in class. Hopefully you hear your them listening to a lot of different types of jazz. That is truly the only way to be a good jazz musician is to listen and try to emulate. Like 3rd hour, we have a lot of time before our first concert in October so we will work on getting students comfortable with soloing in front of other students.

### Percussion Class (7th Hour)

I will be sending home a list of required sticks and mallets. As I mentioned above in the drumline section, we will be doing a group order. It is critical that students have the sticks and mallets they need to be able to learn the high level percussion music that we teach at Olathe East. If you have financial challenges that will make it hard for you to purchase sticks and mallets please let me know so I can look for additional funding sources. They will be having their first playing test quiz on next Friday in class.

Thanks,  
Mr. Smikahl