

Happy Summer, Oak Grove Band Family! I hope you've all enjoyed your summer thus far. It may still be July, but the new school year is just around the corner which means it's time for our booster activities to gear up. Below are some details on upcoming events and some detail on needs we have going into the new season. Please review all sections below and look for opportunities where you can step in and make a difference.

Band Camp

Our first big deal of the new school year is band camp. Believe it or not, that's less than 2 weeks away now. Below is a rough schedule and list of needs we have identified for band camp.

Band Camp Schedule:

Sunday 8/6: 3:00PM – 6:00PM

Sunday 8/6: 5:30 Booster meeting in OGMS cafeteria

Monday – Thursday: 8:30AM – 6:00PM

Friday 8/11: 8:30AM – 12:00PM

Band Camp Needs:

Volunteers – to setup/maintain water stations, monitor lunch, assist with cleanup

Coolers – both chest coolers and dispenser coolers

Bottled water – Preferably the smaller 6 or 8 oz. bottles

Powdered Gatorade mix

Snacks – packs of crackers, granola bars, cookies, etc (all store wrapped)

Booster Meeting (Sunday 8/6 @5:30)

Did you notice in the schedule above that we will be having our initial booster meeting at 5:30 on Sunday 8/6? This is the first day of band camp. I know it's not our typical meeting day and time, but with this being many of our student's first ever band camp, Mr. Howell and I felt it was important to meet as early as possible to address any questions and to kick off our year.

Per Mr. Howell: **We are REQUIRING at least one parent or guardian of each band member to attend this very important meeting.**

Band Camp Fees

I must say everyone has done a good job of getting band camp fees paid thus far. Please keep in mind that while they may be called "band camp fees", they are used for much more than just band camp. The music rights, marching show choreography, and instruction are all covered by this fee of course, but so are the many other expenses involved in operating an active marching band program. Unfortunately, our band camp fees still aren't enough to make it all happen. Full band camp payment from 100% of our students plus 100% participation in fundraising

activities are necessary to get there. Please see Mr. Howell or me if there are any questions or concerns about this need.

Uniforms

I'd like to make sure everyone understands the marching uniforms we have at Oak Grove. As is the case in many marching programs, the jacket, helmet, plume and gauntlets are a permanent part of the uniform, kept by the school, and reissued at the beginning of each season. The bibs (pants), shoes and gloves are purchased by each student and become theirs to keep. As long as they aren't outgrown or worn out, they could wear these all 4 years in high school. If they are outgrown or damaged, they can be repurchased by the student at any time.

Whether you know it or not, your student was fitted for the bibs, shoes and gloves this past Spring so their sizes are on record. It will be soon time to place the order for these pieces of the uniforms, which means it's time to make sure your uniform payments are made in a timely manner. The \$108 payment for these items includes 1 set of bibs, 1 pair of shoes and 2 pairs of gloves. This payment can be made by cash or check at the booster meeting on Sunday or by using the online store at www.oakgrovebands.com/shop. If you go the online route, a convenient package option including all these pieces is listed.

Fundraising

During our interest surveys last spring, we saw that several booster parents were interested and willing to step up and help with the fundraising committee. We are in need of leadership for this committee. I would love to see two or three of our parents step up and take the lead on coordinating our fundraising efforts this year. We already have several great ideas, we just need you all to help run with them. If you would be interested in stepping up in this area, please reply to our info@oakgrovebands.com email address and let Amy know.

Concessions

As you may recall, the Band Boosters will have the privilege of operating the visitors side concession stand in the football stadium. We are in need of leadership in this area. We have not yet seen the concession stand due to construction, but we know we'll be able to serve drinks and snacks at a minimum. Hot food may be an option at some point. We have a point of contact for our Pepsi products, and now need coordination for purchasing snacks, organizing the schedule, etc. so that we can make the most of this opportunity.

Instrument Needs

As a booster organization, our objective is to ensure every student has an opportunity to play an instrument in class and on the field. In preparation for the upcoming year, we've asked Mr. Howell to take a serious look at any instrument needs he will have that may not be provided for by the school system. With a headcount of over 80 students in our first year, enrollment in the

band program has exceeded expectations. As one might conclude, there are both immediate and long term needs that we are facing. I've had a chance to do an initial review of the list and will stress now that our fee payments, volunteer participation and fundraising efforts will be vital in meeting our objective. Mr. Howell will be sharing more specifics on this at the booster meeting Sunday 8/6.

I apologize for this running a bit long, but as you can see there is a lot to cover. I would like to not only encourage everyone to attend the upcoming booster meeting, but to also offer ideas and seek opportunities to contribute your talents this year.

Thanks!

Phil