

OAK GROVE BAND GENERAL OPENING
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 28, 2019

Mr. Howell opened the meeting at 3:05pm in the OGHS Auditorium and welcomed everyone, saying the meeting was intended to get everyone on the same page with the beginning of summer band camp.

OG Band Program is growing with over 115 beginning students at OGMS this year and 3 different band classes at OGHS – music theory, wind ensemble, concert band – and the first year to have all grades represented in the school. Mr. Howell recognized the first Senior class band students and their value to the program with their experience and stated he wants this to be a special year for them. This season's marching program, TOXIC, is the most ambitious program thus far.

Mr. Howell presented a power point and discussion about Band Binders and Camp Information/Expectations. Topics included: trip permission forms to be filled out this week allowing students to travel to away games and competitions this season; handbook for students/parents on communication; season schedule and will be updated monthly as needed with Mr. Larsen sending schedules to the middle school students participating in marching season; Band Booster meeting schedule; Band camp schedule with a performance for family on 8/8 at 6:30; absence waiver form; the necessity for band students to keep their binders with them at all times; and things to know about/have at camp. He emphasized need for students to have necessary items for their instruments to keep in good working condition and asked parents to be encouraging for their students.

Mr. Howell introduced the student leadership team and staff who will be working with different sections throughout the season. He also mentioned the fee statements each family received and emphasized the cost of running a band program and the need for fees to be paid in a timely manner and participation in fundraising.

Kara Ward, Booster Secretary, encouraged each family to participate in the Band Boosters and sharing the experience with their student as a fun way to get involved. Volunteers are always needed in different areas and have sheets in lobby to indicate where can sign up. She also mentioned that 2 church groups have offered to provide dinners for band camp nights and asked for any others who would like to do the same to please contact her.

Mr. Howell discussed ways to communicate and receive information through Remind groups (as issues with the number of participants is being resolved through the school), student email addresses need to be checked often, and parent emails will be collected if choose to be contacted this way.

Mr. Howell emphasized that all students need to be here at all times for the band to be successful. Everyone has a role and there are no benchwarmers in the band so please refer to the schedule of events to not be absent. He will be pickier about excused absences this year so any foreseeable absences need to be communicated to staff as soon as possible. He asked section leaders to hold a quick meet and greet with their sections to answer questions about band camp start tomorrow and go over any needs. Students traveling to NightBeats in Winston will meet following the meeting. Kim Christy asked for volunteers to help out during band camp to meet with her as well. Mr. Howell concluded meeting by reminding parents to pick up a copy of the Booster Bylaws on their way out. Meeting was over at 4:11pm.