



OAK GROVE BANDS

THE SOUND OF GRIZZLY PRIDE

Oak Grove High School
3507 Midway School Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27107
(336) 474-8280

mhowell@davidsongroveschools.org

www.oakgrovebands.com

Mike Howell, Director of Bands
Alex Larsen, Assoc. Director of Bands

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Students and Parents:

Each week between now and the end of our official marching band season, I will be sending our regular weekly update letter but would like to also include a recap of the past week's events. This particularly includes our performance at the weekend's competition.

RECAP: 35th Annual LEDFORD FESTIVAL OF BANDS (September 28, 2019)

This past weekend's competition at Ledford High School was a great success for our band! I am sure some may question why since we placed last in our class. As we traveled back to OG after our time at LHS, I thought about how I would sum-up the performance for our students, particularly after seeing some tears and hearing some saying things like, "we suck." Some of them were upset that we placed last in class and for some, even upset that a neighbor school placed first in their class. Here is what I told them when we arrived back at OG.

I reminded the students at the beginning of Saturday's practice that I had three goals for the day. The first was that we would arrive back at OG with everyone safe and sound. With the exception of a few heat-related issues, we met that goal. The second was to be competitive. Our band certainly met this goal as I will explain in a bit. The third goal, to win, unfortunately did not happen for us at this festival, although we did experience much success. I did remind the students that to win, we would have to have our show complete, and that will be the goal leading up to our next festival.

After looking at the score recap sheet, a few things stood out to me. First, I knew our competition going-in was going to be tough. Because of our band size, we were in class AAAA with the bands from Reagan and Northwest Guilford High Schools. Both of these are “powerhouse” marching programs with long traditions of excellence. In competition performance, our show did not go off without issue. Literally at show time, our electronics failed to work because MS Windows on our laptop began an update just at that moment! I have already made adjustments to the computer so that does not happen again. Our students performed very well despite that and here is the result... Although they did not win their class, our band placed third among ALL TWELVE bands that competed at the festival! They scored higher musically, visually as well as the in percussion caption than ALL of the groups that placed first in the A, AA, and AAA classes! To make an even bigger point, they also scored higher than both bands in the larger AAAAA class! What an outstanding accomplishment for our band and what a great indicator of future things to come for them! Again, the ONLY two bands that scored higher than Oak Grove were the two in our own AAAA class, Reagan and Northwest Guilford. Even those two bands only scored 6 points higher than us. With our band score of 78.5, we are on a great track for success!!! (That is great for a comp. this early in the season!)

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU??....NOW..??

Having read the above, I would encourage everyone to continue working hard to meet our goals. Here are a few things I would have you consider...

- ALL MEMBERS must attend ALL rehearsals and performances short of sickness or emergency. Again, we have no “bench warmers.” When you miss, we all are affected! We have had some to miss events over the past few weeks for things created AFTER our calendar has posted, taking on new commitments/jobs, and even things like a friend’s birthday party! UNACCEPTABLE! (If you are going to be in the marching band, then be in the marching band and accept the commitment!) *Plan accordingly and communicate!* A reminder from our opening meeting on July 28th... **(The original calendar was given out in February!)**
 - o Do NOT schedule medical appointments, DMV appointments, etc. during practice times
 - o Do NOT miss band events, including practices, because of other school work or jobs
 - o Do NOT take on any additional commitments that would interfere with the current marching band calendar that you have been given
- MEMBERS and PARENTS must be on the marching band REMIND groups and check email.
- PARENTS are encouraged to volunteer for PIT CREW and PROP help! We NEED at least 15 – 20 for EVERY performance. (This past Sat., we had about 8 and it was NOT ENOUGH!)*

EVENT #1: DAVIDSON COUNTY BAND NIGHT at Central Davidson High School

DATE: Tuesday, October 1, 2019

TIMES: 3:30pm – until*

DRESS: OGHS “TOXIC” Show Shirt and Blue Jeans or Blue Jean Shorts, Marching Shoes

NEED TO BRING WITH: Money for Dinner (approx. \$10)

\$5 ADMISSION FEE FOR SPECTATORS (parents, siblings, etc.)

ITINERARY

3:30pm – Depart OGHS for Central Davidson High

4:15pm – Arrive at CDHS – Warm-up

5:30pm - Combined NATIONAL ANTHEM with all DCS Marching Bands!

ORDER OF PERFORMANCE

South Davidson

West Davdson

Central Davidson

North Davidson

Oak Grove

Ledford

East Davidson

(the bands from Lexington and Thomasville have also been invited)

@9:00pm – Arrive at OGHS*

EVENT #2: HOME Football Game against SOUTH ROWAN HIGH SCHOOL

DATE: Friday, October 4, 2019

TIMES: 3:30 - until

DRESS: BLUE "Grizzly Band" shirts UNDER UNIFORM (yes, FULL UNIFORM)

(Bring Shoes, Bibs, Gloves, etc.)

NEED TO BRING WITH: Dinner*/snack and money for concessions (Visitor's Side Only!)

*** Students should bring something to eat during our break at 5:15pm. Band Boosters *may* have some pizza available for purchase (2 slices for \$1). We have water bottles and a few snacks as well. Students will also be able to visit our visitor's concession stand but that will be during 3rd Quarter (after 8pm).**

ITINERARY

3:30pm – Students begin practice session

5:15pm – Students will break for Dinner* or snack.

5:45pm – Students continue practice session

6:45pm – Dress, etc.

7:00pm – March to track

7:20pm – Perform National Anthem

Halftime – Perform "TOXIC"

@10:00pm – Game Ends*

* As stated in the handbook, when the event is over, ALL students will have responsibilities such as putting their instruments away, cleaning-up, etc. NO STUDENTS will be able to leave until dismissed by Mr. Howell or Mr. Larsen.

*PLEASE REMEMBER THAT SOME OF THESE TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE. Band festivals typically run behind so be flexible! Your child will be allowed to use cell phones to call you, etc. REMIND messages with updates will also be sent throughout the event.

GO GRIZZLY BAND!!!!