



OAK GROVE BANDS

THE SOUND OF GRIZZLY PRIDE

**Oak Grove High School
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Mike Howell, Director of Bands

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Students and Parents:

I'd like to take a moment to welcome you to Oak Grove High School! We are so excited to have you as part of our family this upcoming school year. OGHS is a very special place and I know you will enjoy your years here with us.

Like you, I am heartbroken that we are not able to be here at school making music and memories due to the COVID-19 situation. Our high school bands as well as the 8th grade band were unable to attend our MPA events and I know all groups would have done an incredible job. Along with that, many other events including our "Heading to High School" night have been cancelled or altered. Below, please find some information about our band presentation for that event.

I have been able to spend some time with the 8th grade band and have spoken much about band opportunities at the high school. Mr. Larsen and I share the same goal... to encourage our 8th grade musicians to continue their study of music at the next level. Middle school band is very important and many great things have been accomplished by the group. It is accurate to say however, that they have spent the last three years learning to build the airplane. Now it is time to fly! So many great friendships, memories, and experiences await them in our band "family" and we hope they will take an opportunity to be a member.

I understand that some may feel the pull to explore other opportunities. However, I would remind you that if you would hold off until the 10th grade year, more elective slots open and multiple electives may be taken along with band. Unfortunately though, if we lose our talented musicians in the 9th grade year, it is nearly impossible for them to rejoin later. Along with this letter, please find a sample course schedule (4-year plan) for the class of 2024 which shows how a student can take required as well as elective courses and yet still keep band in their schedules!

Please take a moment to read all of the info provided and make the smart and awesome decision to continue your music education at OGHS!

Musically,

Mike Howell 